

Ethiopian accord expected

ATLANTA (AP) — Peace negotiators from Ethiopia and its rebel forces are likely to agree by Monday to hold further talks on ending their country's 22-year war, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Saturday. "We have already begun to address successfully so far some very difficult issues. I don't really see a major obstacle now," Carter, who is hosting the landmark negotiations between the warring sides, told reporters. "Until we complete the talks which I hope will be tomorrow or Monday we will not announce detailed step-by-step agreements that have been reached," he added. The negotiations, only the second face-to-face meeting between rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and Ethiopia in a decade, are a first step towards halting a brutal war in Ethiopia's northern province of Eritrea. The conflict, Africa's longest civil war, has killed hundreds of thousands of people — Carter and some analysts put the toll at a million — forced more than 800,000 others to flee as refugees and crippled the economy of impoverished Ethiopia.

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 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Iran claims progress in talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday negotiations at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade concerning the stalled Gulf war peace talks went better than Iran had expected. Tehran Radio quoted Velayati as saying "what was passed in relation to the Iran-Iraq peace talks in the closing draft of the summit is far more balanced than what was first predicted." The radio said that Velayati's comments were made on his return to Tehran from Belgrade, where the non-aligned summit closed Friday. The English-language Tehran Times meanwhile said in an editorial Saturday that "some progress appears to have been made... in the Iran-Iraq conflict, which has now come to be viewed in a more realistic way," the Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The Agency quoted the editorial as saying, "We believe the Non-Aligned Movement has now given the U.N. chief some extra ballast in trying to wind up these negotiations in a manner that will give satisfaction to both parties in the conflict." The same newspaper earlier this week said that "there seems to be no chance for a breakthrough in the stalled talks."

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Jordan, South Yemen share common views on pan-Arab issues

Attas begins state visit to Jordan

By Nermeen Murad
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — South Yemeni head of state Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas Saturday began a three-day state visit to the Kingdom during which His Majesty King Hussein and the South Yemeni president will discuss ways to improve bilateral relations, pan-Arab and regional issues.

Attas was received upon arrival at Marka military airport by the King, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials.

In an arrival statement, the South Yemeni leader described his first state visit to Jordan as "a pleasant beginning to continued brotherly relations between the two countries."

Attas voiced confidence that

his talks with Hussein would be "successful and fruitful... in issues which will produce positive returns for the peoples of both countries."

He also voiced confidence that his first visit "will constitute a push towards strengthening bilateral relations."

The Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in Lebanon will also figure high in his talks here, he said.

A topic which should figure high on the agenda of talks between the two Arab leaders is possible South Yemeni entry to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which now groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

South Yemeni officials have indicated that their country's membership in the council hinges on reunification of the Yemens. These reports were later denied

by North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Aryani, who described this suggestion as "unreasonable, since both Yemens are members of the Arab League, the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement."

Reports indicate that talks between Sanaa and Aden on the issue of reunification produced several border agreements and arrangements last year, but a final accord on reunification remains elusive.

Attas was reported to have said that talks between the two Yemens have reached the level of "responsibility and reality," but he did not give details of the talks.

A proposal for a joint Jordanian-South Yemeni higher committee was raised during last week's talks here. Such a committee is seen as the forerunner of possible South Yemeni entry to the ACC.

Jordan has joint higher committees

with Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen as well as Syria.

The King held a dinner banquet in honour of the South Yemeni president and the accompanying delegation at Basman Palace.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali, met at the Foreign Ministry Saturday evening and discussed the "most important developments in the region especially the Palestinian problem, the situation in Lebanon as well as the situation between Iraq and Iran," the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported.

During the meeting, which was attended by senior Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries, Qasem outlined Jordan's position on the three issues, and explained "ongoing Jordanian efforts to solve them."

Qasem also expressed Jordan's satisfaction with the revival of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts towards reaching a solution to Lebanese conflict "in a manner which

would ensure Lebanon's unity and honour."

Qasem reiterated Jordan's support of Iraq's efforts to end the state of no-war-no-peace with Iran and reach a just peace which would ensure the rights of both warring countries.

Dali expressed his country's appreciation of "Jordan's national positions towards the different regional problems," and said his country agreed with the Jordanian views towards the three problems.

Dali also stressed his country's interest in developing and strengthening bilateral relations with Jordan. The two foreign ministers also discussed relations between the two countries and ways to "support and develop these relations in accordance with the wishes of the leaders of Jordan and South Yemen."

Jordan and South Yemen have not exchanged resident ambassadors, but the interests of Jordan in South Yemen are monitored by the Kingdom's ambassador to North Yemen.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives South Yemeni leader Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas upon his arrival here on a state visit (Petra photo)

Peking seeks to advance Middle East peace efforts

By Nermeen Murad
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Qichen visits Jordan in the third week of this month as part of a Middle East tour which will also take him to Egypt, Syria and Tunisia. During the visit he is expected to discuss developments in the international arena as well as in the Middle East and bilateral ties.

According to Huang Guo Qian, charge d'affaires at the embassy of the People's Republic of China, the minister will seek "ways of pushing the wheel of the peace process in the Middle East."

China has been actively supportive of Arab causes and a strong advocate of Palestinian rights, and, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has endorsed the Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East to settle the 41-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict. Peking was among the first non-Arab states to recognise the State of Palestine declared by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November last year.

"We want to fulfill our responsibility by aiding efforts to solve

the Middle East problem and reach a just and peaceful solution," Huang told the Jordan Times Saturday.

China, Huang said, believes that the Palestinian issue "has reached a historically crucial stage," and that the only hurdle now to reaching a just and peaceful solution is "Israel's position."

He added that China does not accept Israel's "expansionist and aggressive policy; and we advise Israel to grasp the opportunity extended to it by Arab countries, including the Palestinians, to solve the problem through diplomatic and peaceful means."

Huang said that China feels that "the international situation has developed towards settlement (of regional conflicts)." China has not established diplomatic ties with Israel, but maintains "public relations."

We exchange scientists... Israelis have attended international conferences in Peking and vice-versa," Huang said.

But, he added, China has explained to Israel that diplomatic ties between the two countries are contingent on Israel's position towards the Middle East and the Palestinian issue.

The Chinese minister's visit to

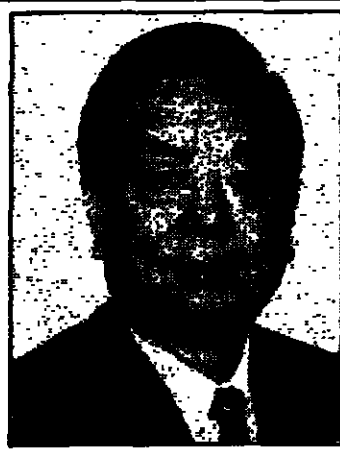
the Middle East is seen by the international media as a "good-will" visit after Peking faced increased diplomatic isolation following its crackdown on pro-democracy protesters at the capital's central Tiananmen Square June 3. But, Huang said, the visit was scheduled as far back as six months.

Trade relations

Although the Chinese delegation, scheduled to arrive on Sept. 16, will be predominantly diplomatic, the foreign minister will meet with a number of Jordanian officials during his three-day official visit and will discuss with them ways of "balancing trade ties to accommodate Jordan in view of the current economic situation of the country."

China is the fourth largest importer of Jordanian phosphates, and trade between the two sides reached a record \$80 million in 1989.

According to Huang, trade between the two countries has increased dramatically since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1978, and China "has contributed to the economic development of Jordan by executing a



Chen Qichen

number of production projects in the Kingdom."

Huang said he believed the Chinese minister's visit to the Kingdom will "boost bilateral ties in new fields of cooperation including trade and industry."

He said that in view of Jordan's "new economic situation," China will be looking for "ways to increase the cooperation during these difficult times."

According to Huang, trade cooperation between Jordan and China "has not been stable, which has created a problem." He said China would try to study this problem and "discuss ways of solving it."

The Chinese minister will meet with the Jordanian ministers of trade and industry, energy and mineral resources, and planning as well as the foreign minister.

Jordan, London Club open talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The government Saturday opened talks with the London Club of creditor banks on rescheduling the Kingdom's repayments of debts for 1989 and 1990.

No details were available on the meeting. Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi were heading the Jordanian side to the talks, informed sources said.

Jaradneh said last week that Jordan was hoping to reschedule payments totalling about \$450 million for this year and the next over a period of 10 years with five years grace. The total amount that the Kingdom owes to the London Club is \$1.2 billion, he said.

The Amman talks are attended by a six-member steering committee set up in London in July. It represents some 90 Arab and Western creditors and is co-chaired by the Gulf International Bank and the Standard Chartered Bank and includes Manufacturers' Hanover Trust Corporation, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Banque Nationale de Paris and the Union des Banques Arabes et Francaises. Jordan's Arab Bank Limited is acting as an advisor.

The talks are expected to conclude Sunday. Jaradneh said Monday that Jordan hopes to sign minutes of the meeting Sunday, though a final agreement might take some time due to technical procedures.

The terms that Jordan is seeking from the London Club are similar to those the Kingdom secured with the Paris Club of creditor governments on rescheduling government-to-government debts in July.

Strike, clashes herald 22nd month of uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians closed their shops and transportation ground to a halt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday as Palestinians marked the beginning of the 22nd month of the uprising.

In the occupied territories, troops shot and wounded nine Palestinians, including a 32-year-old man, who was in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the chest, hospital officials said.

Meanwhile, an army spokesman said that 220 Palestinians suspected of being local uprising leaders have been arrested in the last two weeks in a series of raids on towns and villages in the occupied territories.

Streets were deserted as Palestinians observed a total strike called by the underground

leadership of the uprising to mark the rebellion's 22nd month, Arab reports and Israel radio said.

Stone-throwing youths clashed with troops throughout the occupied territories and Palestinian sources reported soldiers shot and wounded at least nine protesters.

Medical staff at a clinic in Kfar Yomnis in Gaza said troops firing live ammunition wounded four residents of nearby Rafah. One was critically wounded in the chest and spine and transferred to an Israeli hospital, they said.

"If he survives he will be paralysed," a doctor told Reuters.

Hospitals and witnesses reported at least five more injuries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including two 10-year-old boys shot with plastic-coated steel pellets in the West Bank's

Nur Shams refugee camp.

In the occupied West Bank's Askar refugee camp, two Palestinians were wounded when a group of Arabs violated an army curfew and began stoning troops, reports said. The refugee camp, near the town of Nablus, has been under curfew for the last week.

In the army's Ketzioth prison, a Palestinian prisoner was severely beaten by his fellow inmates on suspicion of cooperating with the Israeli occupation authorities, reports and Israel radio said.

Reports said prisoners tried to kill Munir Mohammad Yasin, 22, of Gaza's Shati refugee camp. Prison guards rescued Yasin and rushed him to an Israeli hospital where he was reported in moderate condition, Israeli radio reported.

Battles in Beirut; rains hit homeless

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival forces skirmished in and around Beirut Saturday as thousands of refugees displaced by the current clashes struggled to save their makeshift homes flooded by heavy unseasonal rains.

Police said the intermittent exchanges across Beirut's dividing green line, and in the mountains southeast of the city and the eastern flank of the Christian enclave killed three people and wounded 12.

By police count, the six-month confrontation has killed 833 and wounded 2,474. It has inflicted severe damage on Beirut forcing an estimated 90 per cent of its population to flee to safer areas in South Lebanon, the eastern Bekaa Valley and northeastern mountain resorts.

According to police estimates, all but 150,000 of Beirut's 1.5 million population have fled the city. A large portion of the displaced population has been living in tents, cars and some shacks in fields and on river banks awaiting an end to the fighting.

About 300 families have been camping on the banks of the Awali River, at the northern entrance to the southern provincial capital of Sidon some 40 kilometres from the capital.

Unexpected heavy rains accompanied by high wind that struck Lebanon Friday surprised the Awali refugees, uprooting their tents and some of the flimsy shacks, leaving them without shelter.

Lebanese army chief Michel Aoun, angered by Washington's pullout from Beirut, renewed his charges Saturday that the United States was bowing to Syrian power in Lebanon.

Lebanon's rival leaders urged a three-member Arab League mediation committee to resume its efforts on Lebanon.

The committee — comprising leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — said July 28 it was suspending its efforts on Lebanon.

Foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria are to hold a meeting in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah Wednesday to assess the Lebanon situation and decide whether they can continue their mission.

The committee was given its mandate by an Arab summit May 26 to find a settlement by November to the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war which has claimed more than 150,000 lives.

Acting Sunni Muslim mufti (religious leader) Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Kabbani, in a statement broadcast by the Voice of the Nation radio, said he "welcomes the revival of Arab efforts to deal with the Lebanese crisis."

Samir Geagea, leader of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia, also said he was prepared to "deal positively" with the Arab mediation committee if it revives its role in Lebanon.

Aoun's three-man cabinet also welcomed the committee's efforts.

Aoun, who heads a government vying for power with a civilian administration, said in the television interview that the U.S. embassy in east Beirut was an espionage centre.

"They (Americans) had here an intelligence cell. All the other activities of an embassy were done outside Lebanon. They have no consulate here and they were not giving visas," he said.

But he added that he would guarantee the security of the embassy staff if they returned.

Meanwhile, a group of 15 foreign peace marchers attempting to cross to west Beirut from the east fled when gunners opened up with mortars.

India had earlier proposed a withdrawal by the end of February. Sri Lanka rejected the date, triggering a diplomatic deadlock.

The official said Premadasa would consult his key ministers on the new proposal before communicating with New Delhi. Sri Lanka cabinet ministers meet every Wednesday.

The government was "very likely" to approve the December withdrawal, the official said.

Neither government has made an official announcement.

Opposition proposals accepted

Premadasa has agreed to ex-

amine opposition demands, including wide-ranging constitutional reforms, aimed at restoring peace to the island-nation, a government statement said Saturday.

"All these proposals need careful study and examination with a view to achieving peace, normalcy and stability," the statement quoted Premadasa as telling leaders of five opposition parties Friday night.

The opposition is calling for a provisional government, the replacement of the presidential system of government, new elections and efforts to bring anti-government militants to the democratic mainstream.

Opposition leaders met with Premadasa before an all-party conference he is scheduled to con-

India offering earlier Sri Lanka pullout

COLOMBO (AP) — India has agreed to withdraw its peacekeeping troops from Sri Lanka by Dec. 31, two months earlier than it previously offered, a senior government official said Saturday.

The agreement on the new withdrawal date was reached by Indian and Sri Lankan officials during a meeting of non-aligned nations in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the official said on condition of not being identified.

In New Delhi, an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said he had "no news" on the agreement.

"We will issue a joint communique when they (the Sri Lanka government) get in touch with us," said the

spokesman. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi announced Friday in New Delhi the agreement on the pullout of the estimated 42,000 Indian soldiers from Sri Lanka's northeast. He refused to give details.

Gandhi held at least two meetings in Belgrade with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who led his country's delegation at the non-aligned meeting. Wijeratne had also met with his Indian counterpart, P.V. Narasimha Rao, in Belgrade.

The Sri Lankan official said Wijeratne told President Ranasinghe Premadasa of the Indian proposals within hours of returning to Colombo Saturday.

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vene Wednesday.

As Premadasa met with opposition leaders, security forces killed eight Sinhalese radicals in a continuing crackdown in central and southern Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese heartland, the government said.

Five militants were killed in a police attack in Peradeniya town in Kandy district, 90 kilometres northeast of Colombo, a communique said. Three others died in an ambush by soldiers in Kahrata district, 40 kilometres south of Colombo.

Elsewhere, a Sinhalese police constable and a woman were shot to death by extremists in southern Sri Lanka and more than 235 suspected Sinhalese militants were arrested, the communique said.

Sudanese leader asks committee to draft peace plan to end revolt

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler ordered a new peace committee Saturday to draft a plan to end the long southern civil war on the basis of cultural diversity and religious freedom among Sudanese of African and Arab origin.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir also offered safe conduct to rebel leader John Garang if he accepts a government invitation to Khartoum for the committee meetings.

The 77-member panel, officially named the steering committee, was announced last Wednesday, with a mandate to prepare in a month a peace formula to negotiate with Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Colonel Muhammad Al Amin Al Khalifa, the committee chairman, invited Garang to Saturday's inaugural meeting.

But a rebel broadcast set 10 tough conditions for his participation, including abandoning a nationwide state of emergency, suspending Islamic law, and releasing all political detainees.

Opening the steering committee, Bashir urged Garang to attend but ignored the demands.

"I renew the invitation for the rebel leader to come to this conference with all guarantees: for his safety," said El Bashir, chairman of the 15-member ruling junta.

He said the committee's duties will be "to formulate a political solution for a form of government that takes into account the country's cultural diversity within a unified Sudan."

The blueprint also should take into account freedom of belief "in its utmost degree..." Bashir said. "No cultural group should cancel the existence of other cultures and their right to bloom."

He referred to the crux of the southern problem: a traditional rift between the six million Christian and animist southerners of African descent and the 16 million Arab Muslims of the north, who dominate the central government.

Garang, a turncoat army col-

onel, started his rebellion in the spring of 1983 to press demands for greater southern autonomy and economic reforms.

Although largely a southern bid for a better deal from the north, the rebellion was aggravated the following September when then-President Jaafar Numeiri decreed Sharia nationwide. As interpreted by Numeiri's courts, its penalties included limb amputations, flogging and stoning to death.

Numeiri fell 18 months later, in 1985, and Bashir seized power last June 30 in a bloodless coup that overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. The military leader said resolving the southern problem peacefully was his top priority.

Representatives of the government and Garang opened talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last month. The meeting ended inconclusively, however, with the two sides agreeing in principle to meet again but setting no date.

Iraq calls for PoW swap beginning with children

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's government has called for an immediate exchange of prisoners of war with Iraq, beginning with children and the sick, injured and disabled seized during the eight-year war.

Under Baghdad's proposal, the longest-held PoWs would be exchanged next, followed by all remaining prisoners. About 100,000 prisoners languish in camps as their governments wrangle over the terms of release.

The child PoWs, said Iraq, were sent into battle "to detonate mines with their bodies" so the Iranian army could invade in safety.

Iraq said Iran refused Baghdad's earlier offer to return the children "on the pretext that they were not Iraqis."

Most of the former child PoWs are now over 18 and many are more than 20 years old, it said.

Baghdad's offer, contained in a letter from Iraq's U.N. mission, proposes the PoW exchange "in isolation from the political nego-

tations" that followed the ceasefire, which began Aug. 20, 1988.

Iraq previously rejected such a step, saying the PoW issue must be dealt with under Security Council Resolution 598, which demanded the truce and detailed a peace plan.

Tehran insists that the next step called for by the resolution is the withdrawal of troops to the border. Iraq still occupies about 385 square miles (1,000 square kilometers) of Iranian territory.

The letter from Iraq's U.N. mission also said the International Committee of the Red Cross has informed Baghdad more than 7,000 Iraqi PoWs have disappeared from Iranian prison camps, and their whereabouts are unknown.

The Iraqi letter rebutted Iranian allegations that the child PoWs had been beaten by Iraqi guards at a special school at Iraq's Ramadi Camp, run by the Swiss charity Terre Des Hommes.

The Iranian allegations, made in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent on Aug. 22, relied on an interview with the former head of the school, Ian Brown, published in the London Independent on July 22.

Iraq's letter said Brown and his predecessor had been expelled from Iraq for complaining about the mistreatment.

Iraq's letter replied that Brown left the country voluntarily after most of the children were transferred to adult camps when they reached age 20, and his predecessor had been expelled for interfering in Iraqi affairs. It did not specify the nature of the interference.

The letter said Iraq guards did not pressure the children to attend school but were "encouraging" their attendance.

Rabin warns against granting visa to Arafat to address U.N.

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has warned the United States against granting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa so he could address the United Nations this year.

"If that happens, it would be very grave," Rabin said, speaking to reporters after an hour-long meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Arafat has not yet sought a visa and U.S. officials say no decision has been made on how to handle such a request.

Rabin said he objected in par-

cular to an endorsement by Arafat's Fateh group, the leading faction in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), of increasing armed struggle by Palestinians against Israel.

"Israel would see it (the granting of a visa) very gravely especially after the Fateh convention," he said.

Rabin also held separate talks with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and with National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft during a six-hour visit to Washington.

Rabin also downplayed con-

cerns about rocket attacks launched from Jordan, saying he was certain authorities in Amman would put an end to them.

Rabin theorised that the rockets may have been launched by "Palestinian terrorists" who felt they could no longer operate out of war-torn Lebanon.

"He's sure the Jordanians will take care of it and are not going to allow the opening of another front against Israel," said a spokeswoman for the Israeli embassy in Washington who translated answers given by Rabin in Hebrew.



His Majesty King Hussein meets Argentine President Carlos Menem during the non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade (Petra photo)

Menem to seek Bush support for Middle East peace effort

WASHINGTON (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem, the son of Syrian immigrants, will meet U.S. President George Bush in late September seeking support for a personal effort to mediate peace in the Middle East, a spokesman has said.

Humberto Toledo, Menem's spokesman, said the working meeting with Bush here on Sept. 27 would be the third step in the exploratory phase of Menem's effort, aimed at determining what role the new president might play in the Middle East.

"He (Menem) is convinced that he can work for peace in the Middle East," Toledo said. "It is a subject that has left him restless for a long time."

Toledo, who spoke in a meeting with reporters at the Argentine embassy, said Menem's deep personal interest in the Middle

East led him to seek a role as peacemaker.

The Argentine-born son of Syrian immigrants, Menem converted to Roman Catholicism from Sunni Islam. He was expelled from his interest in the Middle East before by saying he could not forget his blood ties to the region.

"Blood does not transform itself to water," Toledo said quoting Menem.

Menem led the Peronist Party to a sweeping election victory in May.

Asked why Menem with all of his domestic concerns wanted to get involved with Middle East problems, which have defied solution for decades, Toledo answered, "the problems of great magnitude scare away common men."

The Argentine president began the exploratory phase of his peace effort in Buenos Aires, meeting the U.S. and Israeli ambassadors as well as president of the World Jewish Congress.

Toledo said Menem first sought out the Israelis because of his Syrian background.

Menem last week discussed his plans with His Majesty King Hussein and leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates while attending the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade.

In Belgrade, Palestinian sources said Arab countries had welcomed Menem's initiative and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Latin America in October. Toledo has said Menem thinks a territory should be found for Palestinians.

Shots that save lives in the making for Sudanese

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Wheels are in motion for a massive immunisation campaign for millions of children early next year in war-ravaged Sudan where a six-year-old civil conflict has defied continued efforts for peace.

Both the military government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have responded positively and were very supportive of a proposal by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to observe three months of "tranquility" to allow for the immunisation of children, specially in southern Sudan, according to Richard Reid, UNICEF's regional director.

"Both the government and the SPLA consider themselves as representatives of their people and thus having a degree of accountability," Reid explains what he sees as the motivation, apart from "human considerations," behind the two sides' positive response. International image also played a part in their decision to cooperate and assist the campaign. "Apart from beating each other on the battlefield, they feel they must do everything they can to avert the terrible disaster of last year's 'death season' (when at least 250,000 people died of starvation)," he said. "Image had something to do with it."

The UNICEF official noted that there had been no serious civil war fighting in south Sudan since May and that concerted moves were under way for peace negotiations between the military government and the SPLA. There are strong indications that

both sides wanted peace after having borne the brunt of intense international criticism over the plight of the Sudanese trapped in the fighting and exposed to natural disasters without receiving much help, according to Reid.

The government of Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi, who was overthrown by Bashir June 30 in a military coup, and the SPLA as well as the U.N. took a terrible beating last year in the international press for failing to do anything to avert the tragedy. The deaths occurred at the height of fighting between government forces and the rebels.

Poor immunisation record

Of all the 21 countries in the Arab World, Sudan has the lowest percentage of immunised children. The immunisation level in the country's north, mostly government-controlled territory, including Khartoum, the capital, is 40 per cent to 45 per cent — one of the higher percentages in Sudan — compared with Jordan's 90 to 95 per cent and the regional average of 65 per cent. About 30 per cent of under-five-year-olds in the northern regions, which account for three-fourths of the population, have been immunised, according to UNICEF statistics. In the south, which accounts for approximately one-fourth of the population, the immunisation level is zero.

"Sudan is by far at the bottom of the table for immunisation against vaccine-preventable killer diseases," said Reid, UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa. "Thousands of children could die in the absence of protection against measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, tuberculosis and tetanus."

It is estimated that 530 to 550 Sudanese children die every day from preventable diseases — 20 to 30 per cent from vaccine preventable. The situation is further accentuated by the famine and drought that hit the country in the past years, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives through hunger, starvation and epidemics. Malnutrition is rampant among Sudanese children who live in camps in the north/south "transit zone" and even in Khartoum.

No 'death season'

Measles, "the monster killer of children," claims two million children around the world every year, Reid pointed out. In one Sudanese town of 50,000, measles killed 3,000 to 4,000 children in a sudden sweep during last year's "death season," he said. Taking into consideration the tremendous threat posed by measles, UNICEF will add a special emphasis on the disease during the Sudan campaign, Reid added.

"There will not be any 'death season' this year," Reid asserts. "We already have repositioned over 100,000 tonnes of food and supplies in key places to avoid it." Another 20,000 tonnes are needed to fully address the problem as assessed by UNICEF, which is now seeking between \$20 million and \$25 million to finance to complete the project, aptly named "Operation Lifeline." The relatively high cost of relief in Sudan is mainly attributed to the war which warranted airlifts rather than overland transport of supplies. In some cases, a tonne cost as much as \$900 in transport expenses.

The logistical problems that face UNICEF in Sudan are staggering, not to mention the hur-

dles posed by the civil war, but Reid is confident that the immunisation campaign will succeed.

"On the U.N. side, we never worried about ceasefires because for functional purposes we have had all the support and protection we needed," he said.

It is obvious that UNICEF was further encouraged to chart its immunisation campaign by the success of its "Operation Lifeline," under which the prepositioning of supplies was carried out with the assistance of both parties involved in the civil war. The Mahdi government and SPLA also protected the convoys while passing through their territories.

All-out involvement

UNICEF is targeting about two and a half million Sudanese children in its immunisation drive, which will involve every sector of the population, including the military, government organisations, non-governmental local and foreign agencies, religious and tribal leaders and even football stars.

The teams will probably have one week each in January, February and March where total freedom of movement will be given to administer the vaccination. The three months are necessary because the vaccine is given over a three-month period.

In all countries, there has been a fairly high dropout rate in the second and third rounds of immunisation. "In Sudan we will try to pull off a miracle and have everyone come back for the second and third rounds," Reid said. "We want to make it a civic, moral and ethical duty."

Reid also said that there was a responsibility on the organisers to

ensure the efficiency of the campaign. "We can't lift these people up and then have their hopes dashed through delays and inefficiency. Then they won't come back."

For instance, "we cannot afford to keep mothers and children waiting in the sun for hours for their turn," he explained.

If properly organised, Reid stressed, "immunisation has an instant effect like cutting grass. It can cut 10-12 points of your IMR (infant mortality rate) like an elevator that is out of control. Turkey did that."

Radio and television are two main elements of UNICEF campaigns elsewhere in the world. In Lebanon, they served as the major channel to inform people of the need for inoculation and details of where it was available during the country's national campaign in 1987 when the warring parties there agreed to certain "days of tranquility" to facilitate the process. UNICEF doubts whether its Lebanon project would have been successful had it not been for the effective messages the countless Lebanese television and radio stations repeatedly carried, exhorting everyone to take their children "for a different kind of shot — this time from syringes, not from machineguns."

Added 'incentive'

But in Sudan, the usefulness of radio and television is very limited; a major part of southern Sudan, the main UNICEF target area, does not have power supply, not to mention "luxuries" like radio or television. The sheer geographic nature of Sudan, the biggest country in Africa, and its remotely scattered population centres preempt hopes for any

justifiable response to any call through the media. So, word has to be carried in person to many remote parts of the country. That's where UNICEF is playing its masterstroke.

"We have coupled the child immunisation campaign with a programme to vaccinate cattle," a beaming Reid said. "For many Sudanese cattle means everything — their way of life, income and economy — and they are too well aware of the threats of cattle diseases like rinderpest. All we have to do is to spread word that we are administering cattle vaccination as well as child immunisation and most cattle-owners will come flying," with their children included in the bargain of course.

The estimated cost of the Sudan campaign is about \$22 million; almost \$10 per child. In most other countries, the per capita cost for protection against the six major diseases is about \$5 but the poor infrastructure and transport system and difficult access to remote areas double the cost in Sudan, according to Reid. The cost of the project — a good part of it invisible because of voluntary services and usage of contribution in kind (planes, vehicles etc.) — will be covered by UNICEF, supported by donors such as Italy, the United States and Canada.

One of the main components of UNICEF confidence of success in Sudan is the almost self-less services offered by the country's health workers. "What we have in Sudan is a lot of people of almost angelic moral stature," commented Reid. "Health workers go on working for months without pay, carrying on heroically, solitary to help the people. With such people around, we are confident that we will succeed."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Baker meets envoy to Beirut

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon who was evacuated from the Beirut embassy Wednesday, the State Department said. Baker and Ambassador John McCarthy discussed the situation in Lebanon, but a department statement did not elaborate on their conversation. McCarthy presented Baker with the American flag that flew over the embassy in Beirut until Tuesday and asked Baker to hold the flag "until it was time to return it to the embassy," the statement said. McCarthy and 29 other embassy staff were shifted out of Beirut Wednesday morning after Falangist leader Michel Aoun made threats against Americans and orchestrated anti-American protests. The State Department insists the closing of the embassy is temporary and was motivated by security concerns for the staff. It stressed that the United States is not abandoning Lebanon.

Sidon shuts down to protest killings

SIDON (R) — Two Sunni Muslim militiamen were shot dead in the southern Lebanon port of Sidon overnight, security sources said Saturday. They said unidentified attackers opened fire from a speeding car around midnight Friday at members of the Popular Liberation Army who control the city. The men, who died instantly, were identified as Hisham Basalbacki and his bodyguard Hassan Dimlawi. Shops, banks and other institutions in Sidon were closed Saturday after the militia called a strike in protest at the killings.

Egypt, Tunisia abolish visa requirements

TUNIS (R) — Egypt and Tunisia abolished visa requirements for Egyptian and Tunisian citizens with effect from Saturday, a joint communiqué said. The communiqué, released Friday night after short visit to Tunis by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said the prime ministers of the two countries would chair a meeting of a joint cooperation commission in the next few weeks. Mubarak and Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali said they supported the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and the Arab League committee set up to mediate in the Lebanese conflict, it added. Mubarak invited Ben Ali to Egypt but no date has been set.

Two bombs explode in north Nicosia

NICOSIA (R) — Two bombs exploded on the breakaway Turkish side of the divided Cypriot capital early Saturday, Turkish-Cypriot sources said. The sources said the bombs went off within minutes of each other near a lorry and at a car showroom causing extensive damage but no casualties. No one has so far claimed responsibility. Police are investigating but a political motive appears unlikely, the sources added.

Castro greets Cuban troops from Ethiopia

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro Saturday greeted the first Cuban troops returning from Ethiopia since his government's announcement two days ago that it would remove all its forces from the East African country. A plane carrying 100 military personnel, including about a dozen nurses, touched down at a military airport on the outskirts of Havana. Cuba's ambassador to Addis Ababa, Antonio Perez, said Friday there were fewer than 3,000 Cuban troops in Ethiopia. In 1984 the Cuban government said it was reducing its forces in Ethiopia from 10,500 to 3,000 men.

S. Yemen, U.S. may have diplomatic ties

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Heider Al Attas of South Yemen says his country might exchange diplomatic relations with the United States by the end of the month, the Ashraq Al Awsat daily has reported. Attas was quoted as saying in an interview that the move was expected to follow mediation by a third party, which he did not name. The interview was conducted in Belgrade where the Yemeni leader was attending a Non-Aligned Movement summit that ended Thursday. "Contacts are under way and we hope for palpable progress soon," Attas said. Asked if these would result in direct talks, Attas replied: "they will." Asked if diplomatic relations would then be restored with Washington, he said: "Yes, and probably before the end of the current month." South Yemen severed relations with Washington in 1969, two years after it gained independence from Britain and leftists won control of the country.

U.S. envoy meets deposed Afghan king

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has sent a special envoy to the former king of Afghanistan to discuss a possible political settlement of the Afghan civil war, an administration official said Friday night. The king, Zahir Shah, has been living in Rome since he was deposed in a 1973 coup — led by his cousin, Mohammad Daoud — that abolished the monarchy and established the republic of Afghanistan. Daoud was killed in a 1978 coup that installed a Communist government, backed by the Soviet Union.

Amal militia thwarts raid on Israel

TYRE (R) — A pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim militia has said it had dismantled five Soviet-made rockets ready to be fired into Israel from a village in South Lebanon. A spokesman for the Amal militia said the five Katyusha rockets were found in the village of Shakra, just north of Israel's South Lebanon security zone. It was not immediately known which group had planned to fire the rockets. Control of the south is split between Amal, its pro-Iranian Shi'ite rival Hizbollah (Party of God) and Palestinian commandos. Rockets fired from South Lebanon struck Israel twice last week. An Israeli army spokesman blamed Hizbollah for one of the attacks. Amal said Tuesday it had arrested guerrillas preparing a cross-border rocket attack and confiscated seven Katyushas. It said it was preventing other groups from launching rocket attacks on Israel because of the risk of retaliation.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 News in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:20 Give Me a Break
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le monde magique chantal goya
18:30 Loft story
18:35 Perfetto
19:00 News in French
19:15 Douce France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Foil ups — Bleep & Benders
21:10 Doc. "Battle Line"
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Equiliber

PRAYER TIMES

04:52 Fajr
06:11 Sunrise (Sunrise) Dula
12:33 Dhuhr
14:06 Asr
18:54 Maghreb
20:13 Isha

CHURCHES

Tel: 810740

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrence Church Tel. 622446

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Assioutian Catholic Church Tel. 771351

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be fair and partly cloudy and winds will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 16 / 26
Agaba 22 / 34
Deserts 16 / 30
Jordan Valley 23 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Agaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Agaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 895532
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 622690
Dr. Jamil Al Zai 794149
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637035
Neitrouth pharmacy 636712
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shumail pharmacy 637668

REID:

Dr. Fikriya Al Jubour (-)
Al Shams pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Al Amami (-)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 699
Rescue Police 552, 621111, 637171
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 636321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 121
Telephone Information 010230
Overseas Calls 623101
Central Amman Telephone 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 775111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53260
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53260

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 818131/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Ashik Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642632
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shumail 664171/4
Shumail Hospital 665131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munasser Hospital 657271/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Isfah, Al-Mahajra 775110/3
Army, Marjeh 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Assiout Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sam Hospital (09)987372
IBRD:
Rincoon Bussan Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Bin Al Nafes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)5250-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:15 Agaba (RJ)
18:20 Jeddah (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:35 Doha (RJ)
18:40 Kuwait (RJ)
18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
18:45 Larissa (RJ)
18:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:45 Vienna (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:20 Paris (RJ)
18:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40 London (RJ)
19:40 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)
20:45 Rome (RJ)
01:15 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:20 Dubai (AZ)
13:20 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red) 550 / 500

Banana 400 / 300

Banana (Mukhammad) 350 / 300

Beans 380 / 300

Carrot 250 / 200

Cabbage

Cabinet approves KD 4m for Shidiyah project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, convening Saturday, approved the re-letting of an eight-million Kuwaiti dinar loan — presented from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to the Jordanian government — to the Jordan Phosphate Company in order to contribute to the financing of the Shidiyah Mines project. The Cabinet, also, approved the Civil Aviation Authority organisational chart for 1989 as well as the secondment of 14 female teachers to work at the United Arab Emirates' ministry of education.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MASADEH RECEIVES ENVOYS: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh Saturday discussed with Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. He also received Algerian Ambassador Mohammed Bergham at the conclusion of his tour of duty. (Petra)

IRBID ROAD PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Yusef Hamdan has agreed to offer a tender to asphalt and open roads at the Taibeh township in Irbid Governorate at the cost of JD 25,600. (Petra)

WAZANI RECEIVES TWO ENVOYS: Justice Minister Ratib Wazani Saturday received separately Indian Ambassador Gajendra Singh and Algerian Ambassador Mohammed Bergham. The discussions dealt with bolstering relations in the judicial fields. (Petra)

YEMENI MINISTER, CAEU CHIEF HOLD TALKS: South Yemeni Minister of Trade and Industry and Supply Abdullah Othman had a meeting here Saturday with Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) to review the council's economic activities and the 1989 programmes. Othman and Ibrahim discussed action designed to bring about economic integration in the Arab World and the role played by individual Arab countries to achieve that end. (Petra)

HOTEL GETS NEW PERSONNEL MANAGER: As part of the staff development programme at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, Ms. Maha Elias, a Jordanian national, has been promoted to the position of personnel and training manager. Elias has been working at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental since 1981 when she started as guest relations supervisor. Therefore, she was promoted to guest relations manager, where her talents were developed in dealing with people. (J.T.)

MEDICAL DAY IN IRBID: The Jordan Medical Association Saturday organised a medical day in Irbid, in northern Jordan. Several specialists and surgeons from Jordan delivered lectures on various medical specialisations. (Petra)

TRAINING SEMINAR: The Jordanian Institute of Management affiliated to the Industrial Development Bank Saturday opened a week-long training seminar on decision-making in matters related to administration and finance in financial, scientific and industrial organisations. Participants from Jordan, Oman and North Yemen are taking part in the training seminar. (Petra)

SCHOOL SUPERVISORS MEET: The Department of Education in Irbid Saturday organised a meeting for supervisors of education in government schools. Difficulties encountered by teachers and school principals and the role of the supervisors to help overcome them were reviewed by the supervisors' and ministry officials. (Petra)

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH: The Ministry of Youth announced Saturday that its teams have just completed a survey of sports and youth activities in the southern regions of the country. The survey, which entailed field trips to various areas last week, aims at introducing measures for improvement and the involvement of a greater sector of youth in such activities. (Petra)

TRAINING AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS: The agricultural sector committee in the Amman Development Region issued a statement Saturday recommending that training in agricultural fields at universities and community colleges should be revised and updated. A statement said that the committee proposed the opening of new training centres to provide new techniques to agricultural engineers and technicians and agricultural extension staff. (Petra)

VIDEO TAPES TO OMAN: Yarmouk University has provided the Ministry of Education in Oman with 60 video tapes featuring educational programmes prepared for Arab students in Arab countries. The gift was in the course of Jordanian-Omani educational cooperation programme. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Ghawanneh and Abdullah Kamaleh, and the Syrian artist Wafaa Al Mesri at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Jalal Oweisat at the Plastic Artists Association.
- ★ An anti-smoking exhibition which includes paintings and posters showing the harmful effects of smoking, at Philadelphia Hotel.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Revolt of 1936 versus the Uprising of 1987" by Dr. Yusef Haikal at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "The Grapes of Wrath" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

PETRA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

(The opening ceremony at 4:00 p.m.)

EXHIBITION

- ★ Handicrafts exhibition, which includes sculptures, embroidery, sand ornaments and woodwork, at the Tourism Square.
- ★ The National Heritage Exhibition, which includes knitwear, textiles and simple agricultural tools used locally, at the Tourism Square.
- ★ The Archaeological Treasures of the Sahara Exhibition inside the old city of Petra.
- ★ A photo exhibition on Petra inside the old city of Petra.
- ★ The Armed Forces Exhibition, including photos and posters depicting the armed forces development.
- ★ A comprehensive art exhibition, held by the University of Jordan, includes paintings, photos and sculptures at the Visitors Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of oriental artifacts and folkloric costumes at the Tourism Square.

PARADE

- ★ A parade of Arabian horses and a caravan of camels (as part of the opening ceremony).

FOLKLORIC SHOWS

- ★ Folkloric songs and dances by: Wadi Mousa Centre Troupe, Al Badou Troupe, Ma'an Troupe for Folkloric Arts and a show by the Armed Forces Brass Band. In the evening at 8:30 p.m.)
- Folkloric shows by Wadi Mousa Centre Troupe, Al Mafrq Youth Centre Troupe and Al Qsar Young Women's Centre Troupe, as well as Radio Jordan orchestra.



Jordanian and Syrian officials meet Saturday to discuss transport cooperation (Petra photo)

JVA may use River Jordan water for setting up fisheries

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is currently studying the prospect of using the water of the River Jordan to set up fisheries in unused land in the Jordan Valley region according to JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani.

In a statement to Sawt Al Shaab daily, Bani Hani said that at the same time his department is monitoring the amount of pollution in the river water brought about in some areas by extensive use on the part of the Israeli occupation authorities at a number of Israeli settlements.

The River Jordan water is also being tested regularly for its salinity which is gradually increasing due to Israel's continued pumping of water from the river and the Sea of Galilee, Bani Hani noted.

He said that one of the rivers which flow into the Sea of Galilee is the Yarmouk River which is being exploited by Jordan and Syria for irrigation and electricity generation.

The coming month he said will witness the completion of a diversion tunnel at the site where Al Wahdeh Dam is to be built, Bani Hani pointed out.

He said that a Jordanian-Syrian

committee, charged with following up procedures on the construction of the dam, will hold a meeting in the coming month to review the project following the completion of the tunnel which is 924 metres long.

The committee, which met in Amman in June, is expected to discuss at the Damascus parley questions related to the appropriation of land which will be inundated with once the dam has been built, programmes for soil preservation in the Yarmouk River Basin and means of reducing sediments in the bottom of the dam reservoir.

The river is being diverted so that construction work on the dam itself can begin, Bani Hani noted.

The construction of the diversion tunnel is being carried out by a consortium of Jordanian-Syrian and Italian companies at the cost of JD 2.5 million.

Jordan has already embarked on contacts with international organisations and governments to sound out their readiness to support the \$400 million dam project, Bani Hani said.

He noted that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to provide a grant of

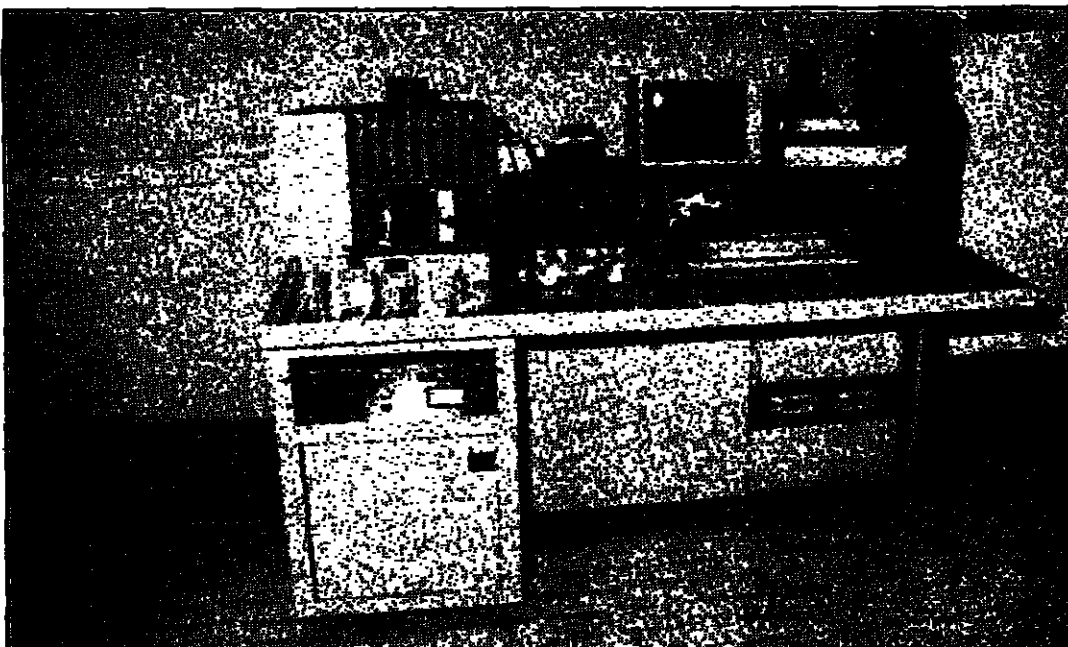
\$150 million to the project and the World Bank promised to give loans to help carry out the scheme.

Under a Syrian-Jordanian agreement most of the 225 million cubic metres expected to be gathered at the reservoir will be used for irrigating Jordanian farmland in the Jordan Valley, Bani Hani said. But nearly 75 per cent of the total generated electric power will go to Syria, he added.

Bani Hani complained that some farmers are doing all they can to obtain additional water amounts in addition to their allotted shares, and warned that the JVA has limited water resources for irrigating lands in the Jordan Valley.

Last year reservoirs behind dams built to collect water in Jordan gathered around 23 million cubic metres of rain water but the previous year a total of 75 million cubic metres were collected and used in irrigation purposes.

The limited amounts of water, he said, can only force the JVA to rationalise the distribution to farms until further amounts can replenish the reservoirs in the coming winter season.



RSS gets new laboratory equipment

AMMAN — Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has recently updated its capabilities by acquiring a sequential Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometre (ICP-AES). This new facility adds a new dimension to RSS capabilities in carrying out advanced elemental analysis processes. It also helps in promoting research and development activities in the fields of minerals and materials. The ICP-AES is an advanced analytical facility which allows for the analysis of about 80

elements sequentially from trace to per cent concentrations in liquid phase with high accuracy and reproducibility. By having such a facility the RSS will be able to provide a complete analysis of up to 50 samples per day with less than one gram sample required to perform more than 10 elemental analysis on the same sample. This facility was donated by the Italian government — RSS News.



Iraqi envoy visits University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail called Saturday at the University of Jordan and discussed with its President Mahmoud Al Samra cooperation between Iraqi and Jordanian universities in cultural and scientific fields.

Dr. Khaled Sawaf, the cultural attaché at the Iraqi embassy in Amman, attended the meeting.

Jordan, Syria begin talks on land, maritime transport cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria have opened talks in Amman to promote their bilateral cooperation in land and maritime transport; and to chart plans for the joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and the Joint Maritime Company.

The Jordanian side to the talks is led by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Al Khammash and the Syrian side is headed by Minister of Transport Yusef Ahmad, who arrived here Saturday at the head of his team.

Sources close to the meetings said that the talks, conducted through committees in charge of the Land Transport Company and the Syrian Jordanian Maritime Company, will focus on the two companies' operations in the coming stage.

The Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company's fleet of

vehicles transported 1.5 million tonnes of goods between Jordan and Syria and between the two countries and the rest of the world since its establishment in 1986.

The maritime company last year realised a profit of 20 million Syrian pounds, down from 22 million for operations carried out by its two cargo vessels in the previous year, according to company officials.

Khammash made a statement at the opening of the talks underlining the importance of the meeting which, he said, was a manifestation of the two countries' endeavours to promote cooperation in transport and enhance their national economy.

He expressed hope that the talks will lead to further activities of the joint companies and more gains for the Jordanian and Syrian people.

For his part, the Syrian minister said that the two companies operations reflect the strong ties between Jordan and Syria.

The current meetings are bound to help officials from Jordan and Syria to identify areas where cooperation can be expanded, the Syrian minister noted.

Among the topics on the agenda is a review and endorsement of the fiscal budgets a report by the companies board of directors on investments by the two companies and plans for future development.

Jordan attends Tunis meeting on control of Arab financial operations

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan, along with seven other Arab countries, is taking part in a two-day meeting here to discuss issues pertaining to control over financial and accountability operations in governmental departments of the Arab World.

The eight Arab countries taking part in the meeting are members of an executive council set up by the Higher Arab Commission on Financial Control which is affiliated to the Arab League.

Subjects related to organising and developing cooperation among Arab League member countries in raising the standard of financial control and training courses for Arab personnel in 1989 and 1990, will be among the various topics for discussion, according to Dr. Hashem Dabbas, the director of the Central Audit Bureau, who is leading Jordan's team to the meeting.

Dabbas said that the meeting will review symposia on financial control in the Arab World, which will be organised in the coming three days.

Apart from Jordan, the council groups representatives from Sudan, Libya, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and North Yemen.

The higher commission was set up in 1976 by the Arab League as a means of bolstering cooperation among financial and audit bureaus and government departments.

Accidents claim 3 lives in last week of August

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and 142 others were injured as a result of 224 road accidents in the Kingdom in the last week of the past month, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

A statement issued by the department Saturday said that most of the cases involved vehicles knocking down pedestrians but

they also included car collisions.

The accidents in the last week of August, the statement said, registered a decline in comparison with those of the previous week when 310 accidents occurred resulting in the death of 14 people.

The statement said that most of the accidents came as a result of wrong overtaking and violations of traffic regulations.

Jordan takes part in world dentists conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Dentists Association took part in a conference by world dentists which was held in the Netherlands recently.

Dr. Ishag Al Khairi, the association president who led a Jordanian team to the conference, said that 45 working papers dealing with dentistry and modern trends in the treatment of dentures and gums were discussed by delegates from around the world.

The conference endorsed a set of recommendations passed by the previous dentistry conference which called for the inclusion of Palestine as an observer at the conference, Kahiri noted.

He said that an exhibition of dentistry equipment by a number of international companies was organised during the conference.

Regional meeting to discuss managing housing projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Management and maintenance of housing estates in Jordan will be the theme of a three-day symposium due to open here Tuesday.

The symposium, organised by the Housing Corporation in conjunction with the Arab League Department of Housing and Reconstruction, is to be attended by delegates from eight countries in addition to the Arab League and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

several Jordanian working papers on maintaining and managing housing projects and legal matters affiliated to these procedures, according to a Housing Corporation spokesman.

He said that experiences of Arab countries in housing and housing estate management will be reviewed.

Arab countries taking part are Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, North and South Yemen, Syria and the United Arab Emirates in addition to Jordan.

ACCOUNTANTS REQUIRED

An International Firm of Accountants requires young single status auditors for its offices in Saudi Arabia.

Interested applicants, who should hold an accounting degree from a recognised university, be fluent in both the Arabic and English languages and have relevant auditing experience. Should apply in their own handwriting in both Arabic and English to:

P.O. Box 2672 Riyadh 11461, Saudi Arabia enclosing copies of their resume, degree and a recent photograph."

Integrated systems

AMMAN (Petra) — Agricultural researchers and staff from the Ministry of Agriculture's extension service Saturday embarked on a training course designed to orient them on integrated agricultural systems in field crops and livestock.

The seminar, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the University of Jordan, entails lectures on field crops and animal feed in Jordan and tours of agricultural projects.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

An international anecdote to drugs

THE ALLOUT war now being waged against drugs is one of the holiest of all wars ever. The initiative to launch such an attack to root out the drug scourge is being spearheaded by the U.S. in conjunction with some Latin American countries notably Colombia, and scores of other states in the four corners of the world. There is no doubt that this decision to take the bull by the horns will go a long way to check the mushrooming drug curse worldwide.

Nevertheless, the only decisive way to stem the burgeoning drug problem is to put an effective end to the widespread usage of drugs. As long as there is a demand for drugs no effort will be enough to eradicate their source. In fact, if the demand for drugs continues unabated, the battle at the source level will only exacerbate the issue and heighten the criminal dimensions of its conduits from the source to the user and customer. Accordingly, for the battle against the drug crisis to be won, there is always a need to wage it at both ends of the problem: the source as well as the user levels. It goes without saying that if and when the customer side of the equation can be eradicated then the source problem would have been dealt with automatically.

Of course to stop the public drug habit is a big order and would necessitate a multi-dimensional approach. In essence, the root problem is socio-economic, culminating in a psychological framework that defies easy answers. The decline of religion and spiritual pursuits, the decline of morality and the breakdown of family life have all accelerated the drug phenomenon in the industrial nations of the world. Poverty and deprivation, both political and educational, have on the other hand, been the principal reasons for the widespread resort to drugs in poor countries of the world. The tragedy lies in the fact that once a nation, rich or poor, becomes addicted to the disease, the tools available to reverse the tide become doubly difficult. All these and similar proposition would warrant one to suggest the convening of an international conference to be attended by eminent personalities and experts in the phenomenon of drug abuse with a view to defining and articulating effective multi-disciplinary anecdotes to the rise of this scourge worldwide. While allowing that it is not an orthodox policy to call on the U.N. Security Council to become seized with this kind of threat to security and peace, it would still be the right thing to do to put the machinery of the Security Council in the service of this global war effort to eradicate the drug crisis from the face of the Earth.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Saturday welcomed a visit to Jordan this week by the President of South Yemen who will have talks with King Hussein on matters of mutual concern and Arab affairs. The paper said that the talks reflect the two countries' concern to boost inter-Arab cooperation at all levels and enhance the joint action for the common causes, and to safeguard the higher national interests. The South Yemeni leaders will no doubt discover more things about Jordan which stands like a fortress in the face of enemy ambitions and designs, and as a shield providing protection to the Arab Nation from external threats, the paper noted. The South Yemeni president will see for himself that Jordan remains committed to the defence of the Arab Nation and to working with serious determination to bolster inter Arab action and solidarity among Arab states, the paper added. We have confidence, said the paper, that the president's visit to Jordan will contribute most positively towards enhancing Jordanian Yemeni relations and help provide further protection to the Arab order in the face of all hostile challenges.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Abdel Rahim Omar draws attention to the deep gap between the rich industrialised nations and the poor world. He says that this can clearly be felt after reading the Non-Aligned Movement's final communique in Belgrade which referred to numerous world issues and pointed to further economic problems in the coming future. The writer says that the Third World which includes most of the non-aligned countries is bound to fall prey once more to foreign domination or a new form of colonialism. The growing foreign debt and the abject poverty in some of the non-aligned nations make it only possible for the rich industrialised nations to find the way open for imposing domination, says the writer. He notes that since the Third World continues to sell cheap raw material to the rich countries and buy manufactured products at very high cost, the poor are bound to succumb to the conditions and terms of the rich. Omar believes that as long as this cycle is in progress the rich are bound to become richer and the poor poorer unless the leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement can come up with a way to end this unacceptable situation.

Al Dastour daily Saturday tackled the situation in the occupied territories as the intifada enters its 22nd month. Day after day and month after month, the Palestinians prove to the world that they are determined to pursue the struggle for freedom and independence, said that paper. The thousands of killed, injured and detained Palestinians and the scores of deported citizens can only point to the atrocities committed by the Israeli enemy but will not deter further uprising and further resistance, the paper added. As the Israelis invent new methods of terrorism and repression, the world continues to condemn such action with words and sympathy, but the Palestinians confront all that with real action, said the paper. However, the criminal actions against the Palestinians should prompt the world community at large to translate words into action to end the occupation, concluded the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Advanced warning of economic crisis

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

AFTER the unraveling of the economic crisis late in 1988, many silent observers suddenly became outspoken and wise retroactively, others were blaming public opinion makers and watchdogs, like myself, for failure to give advance warning against the crisis.

Being away this week, and to avoid the absence of Sunday's Economic Pulse today, I shall present to you what I have written in this very place six years ago, i.e., in the Jordan Times of Dec. 31, 1983: 1983:

"The so called recession or slow-down in the Jordanian economy should not be mistaken for the traditional recessions known in all industrial economies in the Western world.

The economic recession in America or Western Europe is a stage in their business cycle, and is normally followed by economic recovery and prosperity and so on. The economic slow-down here in Jordan is not a stage or part of a cycle, and consequently should not be tackled as such by traditional means such as hiking public spending, expanding credit, reducing interest rates, and encouraging private consumption.

On the contrary the present recession in the Jordanian economy is the direct result of the drop in Arab financial support to the treasury, which rendered the government unable to

continue its planned development and social programmes, including heavy expenditure and direct or indirect subsidy of most economic activities.

Jordan used to receive some JD 400 million (\$1.25 billion) in external grants and financial aid from richer Arab countries. This was a huge annual cash injection in foreign exchange responsible for around 40 per cent of the gross national product, even without accounting for the multiplier effect. In 1983 the in-flow of these funds declined below that level. It is only normal that national income should decline accordingly.

More reduction in Arab aid is anticipated in 1984 and beyond. Therefore the slowdown in the flow of income, standards of living, volume of investments, and government capability to support and subsidise both consumption and production cannot be avoided.

The Jordanian economy is witnessing a healthy adjustment to the new sobering realities which call for a completely new set of policies and serious efforts to adapt to them.

It is, however, counter-productive to address the present economic state of affairs as if it is a passing crisis or a phenomenon that is almost behind us, or a cloud about to clear.

The situation does not call for monetary and financial expansion, and for tempting the government to fill the gap by more internal and external borrowing which will prevent the imports from decreasing and thus putting the country's foreign reserves in jeopardy.

The correct diagnosis of the structural problem resulting from the drop in Arab aid is essential in order to cut down the government expenditure to size, and to protect the foreign reserves and control any deficit in the balance of payment.

Arab aid to Jordan, or the lack of it, is not a budgetary problem only: it is a balance of payment problem as well.

The worst position that can be taken is to use the present adequate foreign reserves merely to postpone the necessary adjustments for a year or two instead of proceeding to adjust in a comfortable and secure situation.

There is no possibility that we can avoid a reduction in imports, consumption and government expenditure, and at the same time maintaining a real growth in production for export or for import substitutes.

The proper economic, financial and monetary policies, and measures, may not be popular, but they must be adopted nevertheless, and the sooner the better."

Conciliatory tone at non-aligned summit

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

BELGRADE — The Belgrade summit of the Non-Aligned Movement appears to have marked a turning point for the Third World grouping by dropping its former anti-Western stance for a more conciliatory tone.

Despite a last stand by the radicals, key moderate states like Yugoslavia, Egypt and India persuaded the majority that, with superpower ties improving, it was time for them to seek cooperation with the West to remedy their dire economic plight.

Cyprus President George Vassiliou hailed the summit as "the beginning of a new era for the movement," allowing it to adapt to a changing world.

"The work done here, we

hope, will make certain that the movement does not fall behind history," he told a news conference.

For years the Soviet Union argued that the non-aligned group, though militarily neutral, was naturally allied in all other respects with the Communist world. Cuban leader Fidel Castro, who hosted a non-aligned summit in 1979, endorsed this view.

As recently as the last summit, in Harare in 1986, the final declaration thundered against "imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, hegemonism... racism, zionism... as well as against great power and bloc politics."

This year's declaration makes only passing reference to this struggle and implies that it was a thing of the past.

Instead, it says that "the non-

aligned favour concordance rather than confrontation" and applauds U.S.-Soviet détente as "a window of opportunity for the international community."

Significantly, Castro did not come to Belgrade, perhaps scenting which way the wind was blowing.

Instead he sent his brother Raul, who denounced the United States for behaving "as never before in an arrogant, threatening and aggressive fashion."

A handful of other states, including Nicaragua and Panama, echoed Castro's tone, while outgoing non-aligned Chairman Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe declared that anti-imperialism was "based on fundamental principles and is not negotiable."

But Western diplomats following the summit said such voices were isolated, and that host coun-

try Yugoslavia had succeeded in stamping the meeting with a pragmatic tone that would win the 102-nation grouping a better hearing in Western capitals.

"The non-aligned have been moderate for some time, but now they are getting more understanding in the West because they are just putting themselves across in a much more intelligent way," one said.

Behind the shift of tone lay a growing feeling that with the reduction of tension between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the non-aligned group, founded in 1961 to fend off involvement in bloc politics, could be left high and dry.

"What will be its role if its principal raison d'être is disappearing," asked Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohammad of Malaysia.

The implicit answer, for many countries, was that the most effective thing the movement could do was to take a lead in putting the Third World case for a better economic deal from the rich industrialised nations.

Aside from Saudi Arabia and a few other oil-rich states, most non-aligned members are either under-developed or heavily indebted or both. The total debt of developing countries is estimated at \$1.3 trillion.

The summit statement appealed to the developed world to face "the conflict which is older and deeper than the cold war and bloc confrontation — the conflict between affluence and poverty."

Several plans emerged during the summit for a poor nations club to promote their cause.

Pern reported that it had put together an 11-nation group to lobby the group of seven top industrialised non-Communist countries over debt and related issues.

Later, former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere announced that the same 11 countries plus two others would form a summit-level group to discuss economic problems and plan cooperation programmes among themselves.

Nevertheless, some of the main debtor nations in Latin America still prefer to deal bilaterally with their creditors.

And some summit speakers voiced fears that the East-West thaw could harm the Third World, leaving it an even smaller slice of the economic pie as the West prepares to bail out bankrupt Communist nations in Europe like Poland and Hungary.

preoccupations."

Recognise PLO

Ben-Meir has been promoting ideas like these in articles, lectures and symposia in the United States and Israel. He believes they are making some headway among Jews in the United States and in Israel as well. "I feel there is a growing consensus in Israel toward recognising two important factors: one, that Palestinian national aspirations have some degree of legitimacy; and two, that whether the Israelis like it or not, the PLO does represent the Palestinian people and there will be no solution until Israel recognises these facts formally and officially," he said.

In Ben-Meir's analysis, the Israelis therefore have some way to go toward meeting the Palestinians before any major move in the direction of peace can be made. At the same time, Ben-Meir notes, the Palestinians must also make concessions. "Without giving much more than what it has already given, the PLO should formally renounce its charter. Psychologically, this would have a big impact on the Israelis," he said. The PLO charter, which calls for the destruction of the state of Israel, has already been called "obsolete" by PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Ben-Meir also advocates a change of strategy on the part of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza: "Stop the stone-throwing and overt violence and instead organise massive political demonstrations, day in, day out. The Israelis will not shoot at peaceful demonstrators. This would help considerably because the problem is that Israel is still not convinced that the Palestinians want peace. If this did not work, they could always resume the stone-throwing."

Ben-Meir is convinced, however, that the dynamic of peace is in motion and that it cannot be stopped. "If the Likud (Israel's ruling right-wing party) does not proceed, then a new government will have to come in its place. It is only a question of time before a majority in Israel feels that a solution must be found and that ruling the Palestinians is no longer a viable option."

The solution is dependent on a vast number of complex inter-related problems, including the chaos in Lebanon. It is impossible to see how a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can come about without some degree of peace in Lebanon. The peace process may be in motion; but for some — those who are still dying almost daily in the violence of the occupied territories — it is not moving fast enough. Concluded Ben-Meir: "Every time a Palestinian or an Israeli soldier is killed, it is adding to the wall of hatred that separates the two people... sooner or later, they are going to have to break that wall down." World News Link.

For de Klerk, movement of truth coming

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — White voters sent mixed messages to the long-ruling National Party, but one point was clear: the government will get nowhere trying to please reformists and racists simultaneously.

Following his party's record election losses to both right and left, acting President F.W. de Klerk will be under pressure to signal clearly and quickly which way he will turn.

The result could well be a final divorce between the government and hard-line segregationists, whose gains on Wednesday fell short of their own predictions.

De Klerk implied such a split in his post-election news conference Thursday, when he lumped his party and the anti-apartheid Democratic Party together as advocates of "renewal and reform."

NEWS ANALYSIS

But a break with the right will not guarantee success or acceptance for the centrence of de Klerk's reform programme — a vague "five-year plan" to bring the now-voteless black majority into national politics without jeopardising white sovereignty.

The crucial political debate, at least within the realm of white politics, now may take place with in National Party ranks. Is it serious about granting blacks political rights? Will it phase out segregation laws? Will jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela be freed?

"The nationalists can no longer attempt to satisfy, on both sides, those who want reform and those who want regression," the Daily News, the leading newspaper in Durban, said in an editorial Thursday. "De Klerk has the clearest mandate for real change. Will he act on it?"

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, one of the country's most powerful black moderates, said the election marked the start of "an entirely new and very distinctive political era" in which South Africa was moving away from apartheid toward democracy.

But Buthelezi said his optimism was dependent on de Klerk "having the guts to go further than he ever thought he would have to go."

Heleen Suzman, who has retired after 36 years as standardbearer for

the liberal opposition in parliament, said de Klerk should write off the far right and develop more concrete reform proposals.

"He's now got to produce the goods," she said. "Otherwise both locally and internationally his credibility will disappear."

A similar view was expressed by Alfred Nzo, secretary general of the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement. He said at a non-aligned summit in Yugoslavia that de Klerk "now has to prove the honesty, sincerity and seriousness" of his pledges to negotiate a solution to South Africa's problems.

De Klerk, expected to be elected next week to a five-year term as president, has called for all-party talks aimed at negotiating a new constitution. But he says the ANC can participate only if it renounces its use of violence.

Militant anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa reiterated their rejection of segregated elections and dismissed suggestions that de Klerk be given an opportunity to prove his sincerity.

"De Klerk has spoken to us, the oppressed... with tear gas, with sjamboks (whips), with water cannons... with all the repressive instruments at his government's disposal," said the South African Council of Churches.

"We consider it folly to give a chance to such a regime."

In the election, the National Party won 93 seats, down from the 123 it held previously in the powerful 166-member white chamber of parliament.

The far-right Conservative Party won 31 per cent of the total vote, and increased its parliamentary strength from 22 to 39 seats.

But political analysts suggested the Conservative Party had little potential for further growth, in part because the parliamentary districts are due to be redrawn in a way that will reduce the power of the Conservative's rural strongholds.

The Democratic Party won 33 seats, a gain of 13, and received 20 per cent of the total vote. It won decisively in the three largest cities — Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban — where segregation laws are crumbling most rapidly.

Like the Conservatives, the Democrats' prospects for further big gains appear limited. But their successes Wednesday could motivate de Klerk as he chooses his response to what Buthelezi called "an epoch-making golden opportunity."

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — "We here in the United States are trying to convey to the American-Jewish community that American Jews can no longer go on blindly supporting Israel regardless of whether it is wrong or right. What we are saying is that we are not serving Israel's interests by continuing in this line. We have to come up with new ideas and new approaches." These words, spoken by an eminent American Jew, Dr. Alon Ben-Meir, reflects a new, forward-looking attitude that is beginning to emerge from a growing number of Jewish-American thinkers.

The involvement of American Jews, and by extension the U.S. government, in Israeli affairs cannot be underestimated. The Jewish-American community has provided Israel with unflinching political and economic support for decades. Amounts raised by private groups alone are estimated at more than \$3 billion annually, and observers outside the Jewish-American community have often criticised what appears as visceral, blind and unquestioning support for the Jewish state.

Criticism from within the community was rarely heard. But times are changing. Israel's brutal repression of the Palestinian uprising — intifada — has raised some fundamental questions about Israel's 21-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to some 2.5 million Palestinians. Over 500 Palestinians have died since the uprising began in December 1987; a third of the victims have been children.

The Israel that could do no wrong is suddenly seen in a different light, and American-Jewish intellectuals have begun to reassess their thinking about the conflict and how it can be brought to an end.

Ben-Meir, a doctor of philosophy and political science, is one of the pioneers of this new thinking and now heads "Americans for Peace in the Middle East," a recently formed group of Jewish academics and politicians whose aim is to promote ideas on the most realistic ways of attaining peace. But "academics are more inclined than politicians to think that the Palestinians have a right to an entity of their own," the 52-year-old Ben-Meir pointed out.

Born in Baghdad, Ben-Meir, who speaks fluent Arabic as well as Hebrew, moved with his family to Israel shortly after its creation in 1948. He grew up there, served in the Israeli army and studied journalism at Tel Aviv University.

As a young graduate, he went on to Oxford University in England to read philosophy before moving to Washington, D.C., where he earned a doctoral degree in political science. In his doctoral thesis, titled "The Middle East: Imperatives and Choices" and published in 1975, Ben-Meir outlined some of the major points that, he says, to this

American Jews involved in peace process

day constitute what he believes to be a realistic approach to solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Speaking during a recent interview in his New York office, Ben-Meir pointed to what he called "irrevocable factors on the ground," meaning realities that can no longer be ignored and that, he believes, must be defined, accepted and "institutionalised." There is no doubt in Ben-Meir's mind that the Palestinians have a right to a state of their own and that, sooner or later, like it or not, this will be established as the only way of achieving peace. "Israel cannot be eliminated, nor can the Palestinians, that is the reality. Regardless of whether Israel has the right to the West Bank from a historical perspective, Zionism will have to settle for something less. Both sides will have to be satisfied with what there is: Israel with part of the biblical land, and the Palestinians with part of Palestine," he says bluntly.

One of the "realities" that Israel will have to face once the Palestinian "entity" has been established is the fact that it will continue to be surrounded by Palestinians — in neighbouring Jordan, on the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip, in Lebanon. Ben-Meir believes that although many Palestinians have aspirations to repatriation, the population distribution is not likely to change drastically. "There will always be a Palestinian minority in Israel and there will always be a minority of Jews living in the Palestinian entity," he said.

This is linked in Ben-Meir's mind to another of those realities that will have to be confronted if the peace process is to succeed: the question of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. "Israel will not relinquish the settlements; neither a Labour nor a Likud government could do that," he said referring to the two main political parties in Israel. He added that the Palestinians will simply have to consider the Jews living in those settlements as part of the minority that will continue to live in their midst.

To Ben-Meir, Palestinian-Israeli interaction is the cornerstone on which coexistence between the two peoples will be built. "No matter how peace is established, the socioeconomic interrelationship between Palestinians and Israelis will have to be maintained. Above all, if there is a commitment to actually live in peace, a long period of transition will be needed not only as a

confidence-building phase but also to build necessary safety valves. The interests of both sides in terms of economics and security are so profound, so important, that it would be in neither side's interest to (endanger) the relationship. If peace is the underlying factor, there will be nothing to stop the mechanism of coexistence. After all, Arabs and Jews lived together for thousands of years in peace; it will have to happen again," he stressed.

The question of Jerusalem

Ben-Meir believes that there is a solution to another problem that has plagued would-be peace-makers for years: the status of Jerusalem. Both sides lay claim to the Holy City in a bitter rivalry heavy with religious, emotional, symbolic and political meaning. "You won't find many Jews, be they from the left, right or centre, who would be prepared to give up Jerusalem. But there is a solution that could satisfy the Palestinians: they could have their own borough, with complete independence in running their own religious and cultural affairs," he suggests.

The American scholar says that another essential key to the establishment of peace lies in the hands of Syria, whose part in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is, he notes, often neglected or underestimated. Syria is an important player in the regional conflict because part of its territory — the Golan Heights — was annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, because of its influence over several factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; and because of its presence in Lebanon. Ben-Meir, is aware that there can be no peace without Syria. "Syria is in a position to torpedo any kind of agreement," Ben-Meir says. "The sooner Israel, the United States and the Palestinians themselves involve Syria in process, the fewer hurdles and problems there will be."

Ben-Meir has come up with a possible solution to the Golan Heights problem: "Syria considers this as a part of its territory and it will not relinquish (its claim). At the same time, peace would have to prevail for decades before Israel would even contemplate returning such (strategic) territory. Syria could establish its national domain over the Golan and even fly the Syrian flag there, which would satisfy its psychological needs, and Israel could lease the territory and retain control of it, which would satisfy its security

Gold fever in the Amazon

By Jerome Koechlin

SERRA PELADA. — These days the whole world is looking at Brazil. The spectacular fires currently raging through the Amazonian rain forest, one of the world's most precious reserves of tree, animal and plant species, have become familiar topics. Lit by cattle ranchers and peasants to make way for grazing and agricultural land, the fires are rapidly destroying Brazil's 8.5 million square kilometres of Amazon jungle and are responsible for at least 7 per cent of the planet's carbon-dioxide emissions, thus contributing to the global warming of the planet known as "greenhouse effect."

Because of the predicted rapid rate of temperature rise worldwide, which some experts say will cause a dramatic sea level rise and disturbances in weather and agricultural patterns, many scientists view global warming as one of the greatest threats facing the planet.

And it seems that another disaster is looming, at least for Brazil. The rivers of the Amazon, which constitute one fifth of the world's sweet-water reserves, are being poisoned, mostly with mercury that is used by gold diggers to separate the precious metal from its ore. A gold rush similar to the madness that sent hundreds of thousands of Americans westward in the last century has seized Brazil and its neighbours: already the gold rush has attracted an estimated half a million hopefuls to the forest. Many float on barges up the networks of rivers deep into the Amazon and sift through river beds while others dig on the land. The number of pits is reported to have risen to more than 6,000 from 400 three years ago.

By far the largest is in Para State, some 3,000 kilometres northwest of Rio de Janeiro, in the infamous Serra Pelada or "Bald Mountain." A huge gash bleeds at the flank of the mountain — an enormous pit said to be one of the biggest gold mines in the world with estimated reserves of 600 tons. Depending on the season, between 40,000 and 120,000 "garimpeiros" as the gold diggers are known, sift through the mud and water incessantly, driven by the gold fever. Since the vein was discovered in 1979, officials estimate that 80 tons of gold have been removed from the mountain.

Estimates are the only figures available, because only a minute amount of the precious metal is mined legally and taxed by the treasury. According to a recent report by the environmental protection organisation "Sinai Verde," up to 90 per cent of Serra Pelada's production is smuggled out and used to launder drug money in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and other neighbouring countries. For example, Uruguay does not produce an ounce of gold, yet it exported 29 tons of it in 1985. Two years later, the director general of Brazil's National Department of Mineral Production launched a campaign against gold smuggling: "Official production in 1986 was 10 tons. We estimate that apart from industrial production, 144 tons were produced that year," he was quoted as saying.

Hunting for gold has been a tradition in Brazil since the first ore discoveries in 1696. The garimpeiros stand as picturesque characters and are seen as a breed of their own: silent, attentive, they know how to disappear, how to cheat, and how to fight for what they want. But recently the traditional garimpeiros have been joined by hundreds of thousands of desperate peasants who migrated to the Amazon in search of a better life. Bitten by the fever, they push deep into the malaria-infested jungle in search of the precious metal.

Inhabitable
Even among the hard-boiled garimpeiros, Serra Pelada is famous for being one of the most inhospitable and dangerous of all the gold pits. Over 2,000 people have died there since 1980, according to police statistics. The only way to reach the mountain is by light aircraft. On the way there, it is easy to see the cause of the international outcry over the rape of the Amazon: fires blaze everywhere. In 1983, 8 per cent of the lush forest was reduced to black ash. Here and there, clearings reveal small gold and iron mines, witness to the penetration of man deep into the jungle. "At the beginning of the gold rush between 1980 and 1982, I used to fly up here eight times a day," comments the jovial pilot, Ival Alves, who has been flying in the Amazon for 40 years. "I bring all kinds of people up here: garimpeiros, bankers from Sao Paulo, American and Japanese industrialists, outlaws: all of them are bitten by the gold fever." Suddenly there it is — a huge ugly wound 700 metres long, 300 metres wide and sinking 100

metres deep in a pit of mud. Like a swarm of flies, makeshift shacks crowd the mouth of the crater, while the pit, teeming with a hundred thousand diggers, resembles a giant ant hill.

"I was working in a diamond mine in Gabon for eight years and saw a television programme about the Serra Pelada. I immediately packed my bags and left for the Amazon," recalls a 41-year-old garimpeiro, Juvenal Leal da Silva. He arrived five years ago with U.S. \$115,000 in his pocket, and today, like many others on the bald mountain, he is what is known as "blefe" — penniless. He has only found a few grams of gold and says, "I hope God will help me" — perhaps to be as lucky as the man who in 1983 found the biggest ever nugget weighing 62.3 kilograms (he has since been murdered).

The mountain holds other riches besides gold: manganese, platinum and cobalt, but these are not exploited. "It drives American prospectors mad," da Silva says, with a laugh. Gold, gold, gold... A gram is worth U.S. \$10, and 20 per cent more by the time it reaches the big Brazilian cities. But not much of it does. Dealers, adventurers and foreign businessmen who come incognito fly it out and sell it untaxed on foreign markets or trade it for cocaine in "gold powder for white powder" deals.

Illegal exports
In a bid to stem illegal gold exports the authorities set up the "Serra Pelada Mixed Cooperative of Garimpeiros" (Comigasp) in 1984 and gave it sole control over the mine. Gold diggers are individually affiliated to the cooperative, which sets prices and sells the gold to a private company. Says 59-year-old Manuel Candido de Ajuro, the head of Comigasp: "The fact that the mine has been turned over to the garimpeiros and is no longer in the hands of private or para-statal companies has improved things somewhat: a director of one of these companies was once caught fleeing with his suitcases full of pure gold."

"Yet, few of the garimpeiros can even dream of a suitcase full of gold. Paddling barefoot in the muddy waters of the crater, they work for hours in a steamy humidity, attacked by swarms of malaria-bearing mosquitoes. Acrid yellow dust blown by fierce winds whips their skin and nearly all of them suffer from colds and respiratory infections as well as rheumatism and arthritis. Some 90 per cent come from the neighbouring states of Maranhao and Piaui, the others from Colombia, Venezuela and Peru. Says Antonio Vicente di Moraes, a young doctor who was parachuted into this inferno of misery four months ago: "It is very difficult to work in these conditions, there is no infrastructure, no X-ray facilities, no laboratories: it is very discouraging."

Still, the men keep digging. Everybody on the Serra remembers Modan Fitz Lopez, who found 3 tons of gold in three years and one day vanished without a trace. "Last year, I found 1.5 kg of pure gold," says Malcolm Joseph Neto, a tall, blond 25-year-old. "I spent the whole summer in night clubs in Mexico. He explains that he now spends six months a year in the mine and the rest blowing away his money in Acapulco or Saint Tropez on the French Riviera.

Here life is a few shops and snack bars on the main street, along with several billiard halls. There are not many takers for places in the town's two schools: children start their mining career as early as 12. There are also two cinemas showing a choice of "Rambo III" and obscure second-rate movies. More often than not, they are empty as miners seek other pleasures: women and alcohol.

Women have been allowed in the town since 1986, and brothels have since flourished in which girls as young as 14 prostitute themselves. Alcoholism is rife.

"The crime rate is very high," admits Wilson F. Vasconcelos, one of the 10 federal policemen who are supposed to control the city (their tour of duty lasts a maximum of 40 days). "Theft is rampant and jealousies between garimpeiros lead to ruthless violence. Last May 4 people were murdered in one night," he adds. Though they may have been romanticized as adventurers in Brazilian literature, today the garimpeiros are unpopular, all the more so since Brazilians have become increasingly concerned with the country's ecology in recent years. According to Sao Paulo-based journalist and writer Mario Lorenzi, who has studied the subject closely: "The garimpeiros are the first predators of the genocide of Brazil, and they cause crime, prostitution and alcoholism. It is a very serious problem." Also at issue is the



Standing tall in Brazilian folklore, most of the garimpeiros (name given to gold miners) live outside the law.

impact on the Amazon Indian population who are treated ruthlessly by the gold miners. The police do not patrol these remote areas, and as a result the law of the gun rules.

The gold hunters working with Comigasp earn between U.S. \$30 and \$40 a month, but they have touched gold at least once and they can't do without it. It's like a drug, they go mad," says Julio Mauricio Filho, 41, who runs a small company that worked for six months in the Serra crater pumping water and mud out.

When the mine is in full swing, some 120,000 diggers scramble down into the pit to spend days sifting through the mud in search of the precious gold. To climb back out, sometimes laden with heavy loads, they clamber up ladders some 60 to 80 metres high. In 1983, 23 diggers were crushed to death when a ladder

gave way; 11 others died in a similar accident in 1986.

But the gold fever seems incurable, and contagious. An estimated half a million gold hunters, many of them landless peasants who have been lured into the Amazon by the promise of endless riches, are now scattered throughout the jungle. They are dumping vast quantities of mercury into the world's largest river system; estimates say up to 40 tons of mercury a year are thrown into the streams. Mercury, even in minute quantities is known to cause cancer and deformities in man and is poisonous to fish.

Typically, miners use a torching technique to heat the mercury, inhale toxic fumes and dump the residue into the water, from where, experts say, it gets into the food chain.

WORLD NEWS LINK

The lethal left hand

By Jon Ferry
Reuter

VANCOUVER — A right-handed Canadian psychologist said that left-handed people have shorter and far more traumatic lives than right-handers.

"The macabre conclusion to be drawn is that left-handers do not stick around as long," University of British Columbia professor Stanley Coren said.

Coren said in his study of 1,896 students found left-handers were 89 per cent more likely to suffer serious accidents.

But that did not mean left-handed people, like artist Pablo Picasso and tennis player John McEnroe, were clumsier.

"They are certainly not more gauche. It's simply the fact that the world is a sinister place for them, the world is very definitely set up for right-handers," he said in an interview.

The results, published in the American Journal of Public Health, show left-handers 85 per cent more likely to have a car crash, 54 per cent more likely to hurt themselves with tools and 49 per cent more susceptible to serious domestic injury.

His four-year study also found that left-handers are 25 per cent more apt to suffer work mishaps and have a 20 per cent greater chance of being injured while playing sports.

Coren added that left-handed men are at greatest risk when behind the wheel.

"A left-handed male is 135 per

cent more likely to have an accident than a right-handed male when they're driving a car," he said.

The high rate of car crashes involving left-handed drivers is partly explained by their tendency to raise their right hand and lower their left when startled, he said. This automatic reflex can send them swerving into oncoming traffic.

Coren noted that history had always handed lefties a raw deal. "This word, left, comes from the Celtic word, lyft, which means weak or broken," he said.

He said left-handedness was why former President Gerald Ford, once a football star, was often portrayed as a klutz.

Coren said earlier studies he had done on baseball players showed righties far outlived their left-handed counterparts.

Other surveys showed that 13 per cent of the population is left-handed at the age of 20, but only five per cent at the age of 50.

At 80, only one per cent is left-handed, he said.

Coren said he has a left-handed son who is rather unmoved by his father's findings — as are others.

"Since publishing my research, I've got some unpleasant mail. I've also got some very unpleasant phone calls."

"One man left a message on my answering machine. It said: 'You right-handers think you live longer than us left-handers. But you won't, if we kill you all first.'"

'Go back — some day'

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

EVERY DAY the media carry further Lebanese horror stories — senseless bombings, mass evacuation, the man who invests his life savings to buy 200 litres of water, the young girls who drown on a boat off the coast — the whole sorry picture in Lebanon is all too well known. But what of the Lebanese outside their country? The latest round of fighting since March has spurred a larger than ever exodus, as ordinary people flee militias, ideologies, leaders, truces negotiated and truces broken, and, grabbing what they can take with them, dash over the mountains or across the sea into exile in other Arab countries, Europe, North America, Australia — anywhere that will offer them haven.

Lebanese residents in Jordan number around 8,000, according to the embassy. Not surprisingly, although there are some 500 in Ramtha and Aqaba, the vast bulk are in Amman. These numbers are swelled by a large flow of businessmen, people visiting relatives, and transit passengers to Europe. About 150 families have arrived in the country since the latest outbreak of fighting in March.

Consul Hussein Ramal told the Jordan Times that the community in Jordan was comparatively well off — there's no unemployment here for example — any Lebanese who comes here is likely to be well-off.

Demoralised

But if the material means to life are assured, many Lebanese forced to flee their country suffer demoralisation. New arrivals feel particularly bitter about having had to leave after lasting out so long amid the chaos and violence.

"They destroy your house once or twice, that's fine," says Fadia, a young professional, "but the third time, that's too much." She left Beirut in early March, just before the current round of fighting broke out, to visit her sister here in Jordan. She brought a small suitcase with her intending to stay ten days. She has not returned.

"People have no hope any more. Since I have been here, I have come to think of the whole 14 years. We always had hope — there was fighting for months, or even a couple of years at a time and then it died down, and then it started again and stopped and so on. You never thought of it all as one thing — when there was fighting you kept your head down and when there wasn't you got on with your life. But this time is different."

The Lebanese outside the country share the pessimism of those left behind. Many don't see the violence as a political crisis any more, but as an independent mechanism with a life force of its own.

But although there are now more Lebanese outside the country than inside it, most remain strongly attached to their homeland.

"Despite everything, many of the Lebanese here sit around and talk of going back right now, even with the fighting on," says Samar, who has been here for two years.

"They get bored." Visitors to Beirut before March confirm that, even after 14 years of civil war, the Lebanese had retained their flair for living.

One Arab businessman had complained that in February he found it very difficult to find seats in packed restaurants after 10:30 p.m. Innumerable printing presses were still turning out dozens of newspapers and magazines which circulated throughout the Arab World, while all the latest fashions could be seen on the streets. Up until March 1989, Beirut had still retained the core of its famous "Paris of the East" identity.

"The spirit of openness and life and freedom was not threatened by the fighting," Samar said. "Violence was a part of life but living in Lebanon was still good on balance."

Even the hardships of the civil war, with typical Lebanese resilience, had been countered with a grim black humour, often the innocent bystander's only weapon.

"My friend Aiman only had a small car — a Renault 5," Samar recalled. "There was a bombing one day and he went down to help take people to the hospital. But when he tried to push two injured into his car, there wasn't enough space — he kept shoving the head one of them further in, but the other one's feet would come out the other side of the car. It was sad but we couldn't help laughing about it."

"At the AUB (American University of Beirut), instead of saying 'see you' when you left a friend, we would say 'stay alive,'" she added. "Every time you saw someone, even after only five minutes, you said 'al hamdu lillah 'ala as-salaamah'" (an Arabic phrase said after a journey, meaning "thank God you are safe.")

There is a consensus among recent refugees that the latest fighting has had such an impact because daily heavy bombing, combined with no petrol, electricity or water has made life miserable for everybody without exception. The "it only happens to others" motto had kept a lot of Lebanese going all through the tortuous developments of the civil war.

"Before, people were coming in trickles," said Yassir, a student in London. "They would take it step by step — sell their car, hang on for a decent price for the house, try and set themselves up before they come. Now, they don't care anymore — they go where they have family, and leave what they can't take with them. Their house may be bombed and none will buy their car anyway."

In the rush, people get lost. "I used to have many Muslim friends before," says Fadia, a

Christian, "but now it's so difficult to cross the green line, and people have to move such a lot. Over the course of time you lose contacts with friends — good friends — just because they live on the other side. Now that I've been abroad for so long there are some I may never see again."

Of course, the Lebanese have a long history of migration — large waves settled all over North and South America at the turn of the century, while traders established successful communities throughout Africa. But the latest leavers are very different from the traders and entrepreneurs of earlier times — lack of visa problems and work permits thwart the Lebanese wherever they turn, and they often end up settling for any job they can find.

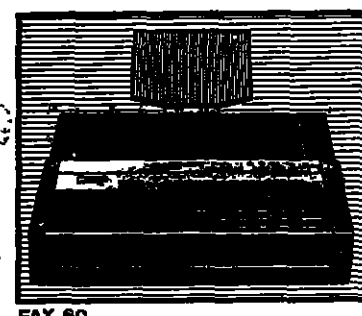
Hussein Ramal, the consul, maintains that most of the Lebanese in Jordan are ready to go back if there is a definite break in the fighting. "We are optimistic," he says. "There is no problem in the world that does not have a solution."

Some of his compatriots, however, are not so upbeat.

"I never thought of living outside the country before this year," says Fadia. "But if I do make up my mind to that, that's it."

"Yes, I will go back," Mohammad says "...some day."

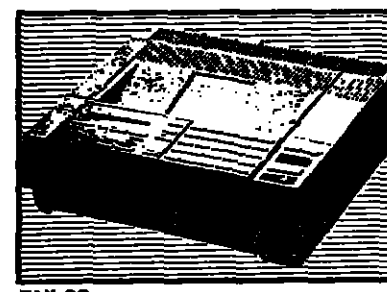
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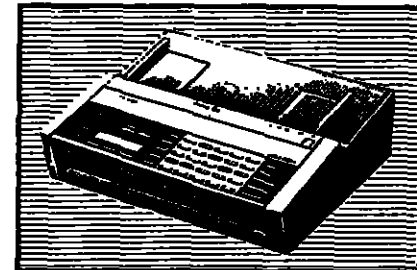
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European giants become super giants

LONDON (R) — General Electric Co. (GEC) of Britain and Siemens of West Germany said Friday they had won control of British electronics and defence equipment group Plessey after a takeover battle that began last November.

The deal creates Western Europe's biggest defence and electronics business with interests including radar, avionics, telecommunications, semiconductors and nuclear power plants.

The success of the hostile £2 billion (\$3 billion) offer was confirmed by GEC Siemens PLC, the bid vehicle created by the two companies, when it announced in mid-afternoon in London that it had 50.4 per cent of Plessey.

The bid was now wholly unconditional, said a statement from GEC Siemens' financial advisers, London-based investment banks S.G. Warburg and J. Henry Schroder Wagg.

GEC and Siemens have said the deal would clear the way for a major restructuring of Europe's electronics industry to help it compete more effectively with U.S. and Japanese companies in a global market.

The combined telecommunications equipment businesses of GEC, Plessey and Siemens will be the second-largest in the world after American Telephone and Telegraph (AT and T), overtaking French-based Alcatel.

GEC and Siemens' defence electronics businesses, including Plessey, together amount to the second-largest in Europe after France's Thomson-CSF.

GEC managing director Lord Weinstock, speaking at a news conference in London a few

hours before the bid was declared successful, said:

"I think this (acquisition) is very important because it is not just for itself, but the path of this whole European industrial strategy."

The battle has been one of the most acrimonious and long-drawn out takeover in British corporate history, beset by hurdles set by regulatory bodies and the European Community. Plessey successfully repulsed an early solo bid by GEC in 1986.

Weinstock said GEC, Britain's biggest electronics group, had become too dominant to be allowed much corporate activity on its own home ground. "We found a way to break out of this strait-jacket finally," he said.

Plessey is to be carved up under a complex formula agreed in long negotiations with the British government and Britain's regulatory authorities.

GEC Plessey Telecommunications PLC (GPT), a telecommunications equipment firm jointly owned by GEC and Plessey, will be owned 60 per cent by GEC and 40 per cent by Siemens after the takeover is complete. Either GEC or Siemens would have the right to buy out the other's stake in GPT if there were a change of control in either company.

GEC will wholly own Plessey's naval systems and avionics

businesses while Siemens will wholly own Plessey's radar and defence systems divisions, including military communications and its related Australian defence activities.

In North America, GEC will have full control of Plessey's Sipican Inc. anti-submarine warfare subsidiary and Canadian defence electronics subsidiary Leigh Instruments.

Plessey Electronics Systems Corp., formerly the electronic systems division of Singer Co., will be 75 per cent owned by GEC and managed by it. Siemens will have 25 per cent.

GEC and Siemens will have a joint majority shareholding in Hoskyns PLC, the computer services firm in which Plessey holds 73 per cent.

In Bonn, West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann Friday said carmaker Daimler-Benz could take over the Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB) aerospace group, creating the country's biggest defence concern.

But he said the deal, slammed by critics who say the new group will dominate West Germany's defence industry and hold Bonn to ransom over weapons contracts, depended on the two firms selling off some of their activities to protect competition.

"This decision was difficult," Haussmann told a news conference. "I have no guilty conscience and I've thought about it more than any other decision in my time in office."

The ruling was greeted with dismay by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) who said it was

a black day for West Germany's economy and made a mockery of laws promoting free competition. By allowing Daimler, already West Germany's biggest company, to take a majority stake in MBB, Haussmann overturned a ban on the deal imposed in April by the Federal Cartel Office.

"It is clear that the law against competition restrictions, the basic principle of our market economy... does not apply to big companies," SPD economic expert Wolfgang Roth told a separate news conference.

A Daimler spokesman declined to say whether the company would accept Haussmann's conditions. He said Daimler management board chairman Edzard Reuter would make a statement Monday.

Share analysts expect Daimler to pay more than one billion marks (\$500 million) for MBB. They said Daimler was likely to announce a capital rise Monday to finance the deal.

Daimler had previously said it would not accept any conditions, but share analysts said Haussmann's takeover formula was bound to have been worked out with Daimler in advance.

MBB said it was "certainly surprised by the extent of the intervention," especially at the ruling that it had to sell its guided missile and marine technology activities.

The takeover will give Daimler interests in all sectors of the defence industry ranging from missiles, radars, aero-engines, helicopters, fighters and transport planes.

"The merger with MBB will allow Daimler to emerge as a

major player in the defence and aerospace field," said Alexander Magona, an analyst at Banque Paribas in London.

Daimler has annual sales of 73.5 billion marks (\$36.5 billion). MBB, West Germany's largest aerospace concern, has turnover of about seven billion marks (\$3.5 billion).

Haussmann's Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) supported his decision despite initial opposition from some members who felt the merger went against the party's free market policies.

"On the whole his decision is balanced and justified. Whoever advises that the project should be forbidden must name alternatives. There is no alternative," a statement from FDP leader Otto Lamsdorff said.

Haussmann said the main reason for the deal was Bonn's wish to cut state subsidies paid to loss-making European consortium Airbus Industrie in which MBB has a 38 per cent share.

"The general economic advantages of the deal and the public interest were in the forefront," Haussmann said. "The taxpayers' burden over Airbus will be reduced by up to five billion marks (\$2.5 billion)."

The main condition Haussmann imposed on the deal was that Daimler must take full responsibility for Airbus by the end of 1996 instead of in 1999 as originally planned.

MBB must also sell its 12.5 per cent stake in tank-maker Krauss-Maffei.

Neither MBB nor Daimler will be allowed representation on the boards of other companies in the defence sector.

Memem leads Argentina to recovery

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's monthly inflation rate plunged in August, raising hopes that after just two months in office President Carlos Menem has pushed his country back on the road to economic recovery.

"At last they (the authorities) are doing something. They are on the right track," a senior foreign banker said after official figures showed the rate of increase in the cost of living had tumbled to 37.9 per cent in August from a record 156.6 per cent in July.

"The government is on the right course and if it reduces its deficit and tightens its expenditures economic recovery could come as soon as January or February," independent economist Rodolfo Rossi said.

The austerity programme launched when Menem took office has won widespread support from

industry, farmers and bankers.

It included an agreement on prices with industry and wage controls — reflected in the fall in monthly inflation — stiff increases on utilities charged and petrol prices and plans to privatise loss-making state companies and suspend subsidies for private enterprises in order to cut a massive fiscal deficit.

"If Menem fulfils all his promises we could be in for a real boom," said one businessman linked to the farm sector.

Menem, who led the Peronists to a landslide victory over former president Raul Alfonsín's Radicalism in an early election in May, has forecast inflation will fall to under 10 per cent in September and 15 per cent on an annual basis in 1990.

But officials are wary of declaring the battle won.

"Hyperinflation is still just around the corner," Economic Coordination Secretary Orlando Ferreres said last week.

Alfonsín's final months in office were characterised by rampant inflation, rising unemployment, exchange market instability, and soaring interest rates.

In June, driven by economic and social chaos, thousands of hungry slum-dwellers went on a rampage of supermarket looting in which 16 people were killed and hundreds were injured.

Menem's government weighed in the following month with its austerity package, winning a positive response from financial markets. Stock prices rose 60 per cent in the past two months, interest rates tumbled and black market foreign exchange premiums for dollars have disappeared.

Businessmen have welcomed plans to privatise the state telephone company, television stations, parts of the railway system and other loss-making public sector enterprises.

Ferreres said state spending cuts should save the equivalent of four per cent of gross domestic product next year while revamping taxes would swell public coffers by nine per cent.

Menem's economic programme is likely to win support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and bring Argentina, which has paid virtually no interest on its \$60 billion foreign debt for 16 months, back to the international financial fold.

Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli said last week he expected to sign with the IMF later this month a letter of intent which would set out agreed economic targets and policies.

'Give banks tax breaks'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposal to cut taxes for banks that reduce the debts owed to them by Third World countries has emerged from an international study.

Much of the \$1.3 trillion debt is owed to commercial banks. Third World leaders complain that because of the payments they make, they are losing \$25 to \$30 billion a year to richer countries. They see the outflow as a major reason why their low living standards have been declining further through the 1980s.

European banks already get a tax advantage when they set aside reserves to meet prospective losses on Third World banks, said Stephany Griffith-Jones, a former senior official at the Central Bank of Chile. But she added that advantage gives them no incentive actually to reduce the debt.

"In fact I have heard, both in London and in Germany that some banks are apparently saying they don't want to take the Mexican deal because it would imply only 35 per cent debt reduction and they already (set aside reserves) for 50 per cent, so they would actually lose tax," she told reporters.

Griffith-Jones said the tax benefit should be withdrawn from banks that fail to join in debt reduction.

She was referring to the plan worked out in July by Mexico and creditor banks, under the proposal of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Tehran opens international channels

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A member of Iran's highest judicial body Friday backed moves to seek aid "at the international level" to restore Iran's war-battered economy.

The comments by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani were in line with moves by newly elected President Hashemi Rafsanjani to rebuild the economy and his attempts to improve relations with the West.

"The revolution's principles as well as the 'neither East nor West' policy should be preserved, Kashani told worshippers during the weekly prayer meeting at the Tehran University.

"But this does not contradict endeavours at the international level to recover the country's sick economy," he added in his sermon, quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Kashani is a member of the Council of Guardians, a 12-member watchdog body set up by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to ensure that all legislation conforms to Islamic tenets.

It is dominated by conservatives who favour the private sector and it frequently blocked legislation by the previous government that aimed at tightening government control over the economy.

There have been mixed signals from Iran as to the extent of foreign help it wants. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted Thursday by Tehran radio as saying Iran, because of its plentiful oil and gas reserves, did not need foreign investment.

However, Iran and Turkey have signed an agreement to build a gas-fuelled electric power

station in Iran, Iranian Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh said Friday, according to an IRNA report.

Zangeneh said a memorandum of understanding on joint construction of the 1,000-megawatt plant was inked during a visit to Istanbul last week.

Iran also has signed a series of agreements with the Soviet Union under which Moscow will help in Iranian reconstruction, while Iran is to supply natural gas to the Soviets.

Tehran also is seeking to improve relations with its Gulf neighbours, including pro-Western Saudi Arabia, the financial powerhouse of the region.

In his comments carried by the IRNA and monitored in Cyprus, Kashani did not elaborate on the size or type of international assistance Iran might seek.

Iran badly needs modern technology to rebuild its oil and petrochemical industries that were ravaged by the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, and much of that will come from the West.

Economists outside Iran say much of the financing for such reconstruction will have to come from the West, making borrowing of foreign currency or direct foreign investment in Iran inevitable.

Iran's cash reserves are low, estimated by the Bank of International Settlements at no more than \$4.75 billion.

Revolutionary Iran has until now shied away from any reliance on foreign lenders. Long-term debt is estimated at \$500 million, low by international standards, although short-term credit liabilities are estimated at \$4 billion to \$5 billion.

The election of Rafsanjani, who heads a "pragmatist" camp that has stressed economic reconstruction, has raised expectations in Iran of an improvement in the economy.

Rafsanjani has said factories

are running at only 30 to 40 per cent of their capacity due to shortages of raw materials and other problems.

Iran also suffers from runaway inflation. Officially the rate was 28 per cent for the past year.

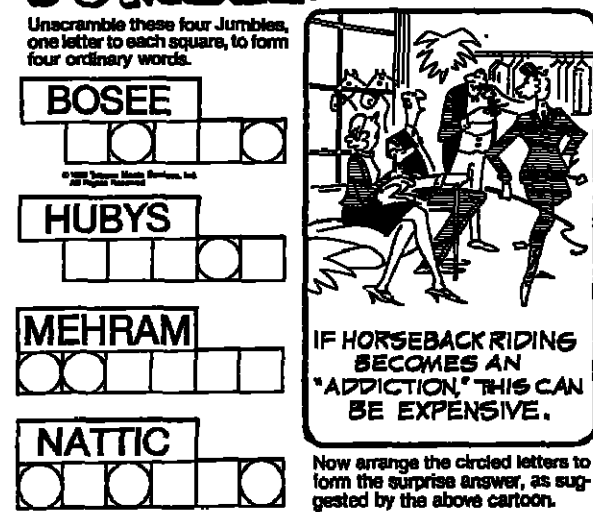
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading					
AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Sept. 2, '89 and ending Wednesday Sept. 6, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).					
Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	254050	419083	1.640	1.640	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	312	733	2.300	2.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	4526	6073	1.350	1.350	1.000
Housing Bank	8150	14735	1.800	1.830	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	150	345	2.300	2.300	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2864	42038	14.800	14.700	5.000
Arab Bank	3690	714723	193.500	194.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	23575	60127	2.530	2.530	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	1299	3584	2.770	2.770	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	21331	48933	2.390	2.300	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	16454	25070	1.510	1.530	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	26539	63469	2.390	2.400	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	279250	600187	2.500	2.110	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	7875	22738	2.880	2.880	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	3375	3920	1.230	1.170	1.000
Yannouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2500	3770	1.520	1.520	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	5850	10075	1.720	1.710	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	19509	27890	1.410	1.420	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgium Insurance and Reinsurance	12250	117863	1.000	1.050	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imms for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	317164	327157	1.080	1.040	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	8995	5686	0.640	0.630	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	92000	32810	0.370	0.350	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	34350	5496	0.650	0.660	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	47778	16076	0.810	0.860	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	2955	4303	1.460	1.450	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	732910	1218319	1.600	1.690	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	150	675	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	176814	265462	1.340	1.540	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	11043	12147	1.080	1.080	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	55196	254773	4.430	4.740	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	273821	683622	2.330	2.540	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	12530	57681	4.600	4.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	1606	2549	1.570	1.600	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3500	18593	5.450	5.300	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	4100	9945	2.420	2.520	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	42800	92052	2.100	2.140	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	13301	33255	2.490	2.490	1.000
Chemical Industries	50	125	2.480	2.500	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	237578	346400	1.360	1.490	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	11994	3769	3.050	3.100	1.000
National Steel Industries	21390	48906	2.430	2.300	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	65070	226989	3.300	3.500	5.000
General Mining	200	410	2.100	2.000	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	19731	117201	7.950	7.980	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	18250	2373	0.130	0.130	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	1000	430	0.430	0.430	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	27270	14528	0.550	0.530	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	18200	52678	2.800	2.900	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	14400	35383	2.350	2.540	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	7120	39941	5.400	5.820	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	429960	627475	1.360	1.510	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	150	615	4.250	4.100	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	367	6790	18.750	18.500	1.000
Mis Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	191208	434070	2.250	2.270	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	41421	116945	2.700	2.830	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	364520	699832	1.800	1.990	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	88768	176569	1.970	2.030	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	48174	47737	0.970	1.000	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	27025	28651	1.080	1.080	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	38143	25397	0.660	0.660	1.000
Grand total	4,291,616	8,318,095			

McEnroe wins another Grand Slam title

NEW YORK (AP) — John McEnroe won his first Grand Slam tennis title since 1984, sharing the men's doubles title at the U.S. Open with Mark Woodforde by defeating Ken Flach and Robert Seguso 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. McEnroe, a four-time Open singles champion, had won this tournament's doubles crown three times with Peter Fleming, his partner for a grand prize record 57 doubles titles. He joins John Newcombe as the only men in the open era to win this tournament's doubles crown with different partners. The victory Friday was the 73rd doubles title for McEnroe and third with Woodforde, the 23-year Australian who knocked him out of the U.S. Open singles competition last year.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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RESPECT THE LADY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 7 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ 6 5 2

EAST
♦ 10 9 2
♥ 8 6 5 4
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ Q 10 9 7

SOUTH
♦ A K 5
♥ A K 3
♦ A 6
♣ A K 9 7 3

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Some card combinations offer no choice; you can play them only one way. Others present interesting options, depending on what cards appear on the early tricks.

The bidding was short and accurate. South's opening bid of three no trump showed 25-27 points and a balanced hand, and North made the value bid.

West led the top of his spade se-

quence, and there was no doubt about what declarer had to do. Since he had nine winners outside of clubs, that suit had to be developed for three tricks. With eight cards in the suit, the expected break would be 3-2, and the normal way to tackle the suit would be to cash the ace-king and then give up a trick.

Had each defender followed with a low club when declarer cashed the king at trick two, that's exactly how he should have proceeded. But when West dropped the queen, a new tactic was called for. Declarer crossed to dummy and led a club toward his hand. When East produced the eight, declarer covered with the nine.

That was a perfect safety play. If West won the trick, that meant the suit was dividing 3-2 all along and the ace would pick up the outstanding club on the next round. But when West showed out and the nine won, declarer then had all the club tricks he needed to fulfill his contract.

We can't stress this point often enough: Pay attention to what cards your opponents play to every trick. Each one of them tells a story.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Having certain in your life is the result of long planned determination, and eliminating confusion that existed. Come to a meeting of the minds with associates and business partners.

ARIES: Listen to suggestions of your money associates where business problems are involved. Continue attempting to get more benefits from your usual activities.

TAURUS: Through a understanding friend you are able to advance your social activities. A most happy influence should prevail at your home, especially if you entertain there.

GEMINI: Go with influential friends that they recommend for your social pleasures. You can get information that will greatly add to your productivity.

MOON CHILDREN: Quietly following instructions of an important person is your way to get good results at work. Invite younger friends to recreation with members of your family.

LEO: You are about to have some changes in your routine activities to be on the alert. Get your business affairs in good order instead of yielding to temptations to go on a spending spree.

VIRGO: Go along more harmoniously with the desires of your business contacts. Returning to former happy sites with your attachment rekindles your romance.

LIBRA: You need more facts

before proceeding with a business venture. Get some unusual gift that will delight your attachment.

SCORPIO: Don't be discouraged you are not getting business results more quickly. Join with several friends in a lesson in helping a charitable venture.

SAGITTARIUS: A delay which annoys you, in a business matter, will work out to your benefit. Put more comfort and colour that you yearn for into your home.

CAPRICORN: Listen to progressive good advice and follow where it fits into your affairs. Take your attachment to interesting outside events.

AQUARIUS: If you can't take interesting trips with friends now make definite plans to take them in the future, but rely more upon an experienced companion where business or finances are concerned.

PISCES: Work activities should flow easily better than ever for you today. Getting money matters better organized at home will relieve everyone.

Today's Child: If your child is born today it is more than likely that he or she will find it difficult to learn average, everyday lessons while completely comprehending complex matters that require a great deal of study and analysis by others. They will be very selective in acquiring a mate and won't marry until later in life.

"The sturdiest. What they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

MARADONA'S RETURN DELAYED AGAIN: A repentant Diego Maradona said on Friday it was unlikely he would be ready for Napoli's Italian league match on Sunday but that he could be available for his side's UEFA cup tie against Sporting Lisbon next week. After a light workout lasting 40 minutes, Maradona told reporters he would not be on the substitutes' bench at Verona on Sunday but added "I don't rule out anything for Lisbon. It's certainly my intention to play as soon as possible, not least because I think that playing is the best form of training," he said.

THOUSANDS PAY TRIBUTE AT SCIREA: Fifteen thousand fans and dozens of Italy's top soccer personalities attended an emotional funeral on Friday for sporting hero Gaetano Scirea, killed in a car crash in Poland last weekend. Thousands of fans crammed against crash barriers outside a Turin church near Scirea's home and followed the service for the former Italian and Juventus captain on loudspeakers. His number six Juventus defender's shirt was placed in front of the flower-bedecked coffin inside the church. The service was attended by the Juventus team and many of Scirea's companions from the 1982 Italian side which won the World Cup. Scirea, 36, one of the most popular and successful players in Italian football, retired from competitive soccer in 1988 after winning 78 national caps in his 14-year career with Juventus.

FISA AWARDS CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1983, INDIANAPOLIS 1984 RACES: The International Rowing Federation (FISA) Friday voted to have Czechoslovakia host the world rowing championships in 1993, with Indianapolis the venue in 1994 and Tampere, Finland in 1995. The Czechoslovak town of Roudnice won 62 votes more than the Belgian city of Hazewinkel, the only other candidate for 1993. Voting on the 1984 venue went three rounds before Indianapolis beat out Tampere, which was then awarded the 1995 championships in a final 50-45 vote over Munich, West Germany.

SUDAN BEATS ALGERIA 1-0: A first-half goal by Ahmed Braish led the Sudanese champion Al Mouradia to a 1-0 victory over Algeria's Mouloudia Oran Friday in the first leg of the African cup of champions quarterfinal. Braish's goal came in the 30th minute of the half. The Sudanese team had chances for two more goals late in the second half but missed both, a shot by Braish sailing just over the Algerian goal in the 42nd minute. Sudan's Al Mouradia reached the cup of champions quarterfinals after beating the winners from Egypt and Kenya. The Algerians advanced with victories over the Tunisian and Libyan winners, the Libyan match by default after Libya withdrew.

CLUBS WON'T BE READMITTED UNLESS CONVICTED HOOLIGANS KEPT BACK: English clubs will not be readmitted to European soccer tournaments unless the government pledges to keep known hooligans from traveling to games abroad, a top European soccer official said Friday. Gerhard Aigner, general secretary of the Union of European Football Associations, said British government plans to restrain only those fans convicted for hooliganism after the ban on English clubs is lifted do not fulfill UEFA's conditions. Interviewed by the Zurich newspaper Tages-Anzeiger, Aigner noted that UEFA's April decision to readmit the clubs in the 1990-91 season is conditional on the government's backing the application and pledging full observance of a European convention against violence, which stipulates control of traveling fans.

ENGLISH SOCCER GAME IN HOLLAND CALLED OFF: The English Football Association voted Friday to cancel a trip by the national soccer team to the Netherlands in December because of a fear of hooliganism. The decision came one day after the British government had asked the FA to call off the match and two days after English hooliganism re-emerged during a World Cup match in Sweden. The FA said members of its executive committee, who were canvassed by telephone, voted unanimously to call off the exhibition match set for Dec. 13 in Rotterdam.

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Campaigners clash over Johnson ban

By Andrew Warshaw
The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Two of the most outspoken anti-doping campaigners in world track and field clashed Friday over the stiff penalties imposed on Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson for taking drugs.

World 800-metre record holder Sebastian Coe praised the sport's international governing body for stripping Johnson of his world records, titles and medals.

But professor Arnold Beckett, one of the pioneers of the campaign to rid track and field of drugs, said the punishments meted out retro-actively to Johnson were unfair and illegal.

Johnson tested positive for anabolic steroids at last year's Seoul Olympic games, was stripped of his 100-metre gold medal and was suspended for two years.

Earlier this week, the International Amateur Athletic Federation's congress hit the Canadian runner even harder, taking away his world records, titles and medals as part of a sweeping crackdown on drug offenders.

Coe, a two-time Olympic 1,500-metre champion and a member of the International Olympic Committee's athletes commission, said Johnson deserved everything he got.

"The IAAF has to be right," said Coe, in Barcelona to compete for Britain in the World Cup that began Friday. "If you have a guy who knowingly breaks the rules... the views of the goodies cannot be upheld."

But Beckett, a member of the medical committees of both the IAAF and the IOC, said stripping Johnson of all his achievements was against the law.

"This may come as a surprise but I'm not in total agreement with some people over this," Beckett said. "You cannot act against natural justice. I am not a supporter of Johnson but I support natural justice."

Coe said Johnson's admission before a Canadian inquiry that he was taking drugs as far back as 1981 vindicated the IAAF.

"That covers the period he has been punished for," Coe said. "What he did is against the rules, the ethics of sport and it's bloody cheating. You are either in the war or you are not."

Coe, who announces next week when he plans to retire, said he felt Johnson should have been banned for life.

"I think first-time offenders should be out completely," he

example of someone without consideration to the full consequences...

"In a situation where one man is forced to talk and nobody else is, it's not fair."

Beckett said the IAAF's decision earlier this week to introduce out-of-competition random testing was "a major step forward" in the war against drugs.

But he said he was pessimistic about eradicating the problem unless sportsmen and women were re-educated about the dangers.

"We all want to eliminate this evil," he said. "But unless we change the concept that you must use drugs to achieve success... I'm pessimistic that we can stop the chain."

Beckett said there were still loop-holes thwarting the anti-drugs campaign, such as replacing steroids with naturally produced performance-enhancing substances not banned by the IOC or IAAF.

"It is well known that people try to beat tests by replacing steroids with human growth hormone (HGH), which is not banned. Sport is going to be in an increasingly difficult situation if we rely solely on testing as a means of moving ahead."

He warned that even the most sophisticated testing could not for ever stay ahead of the drug-user. "Testing will be increasingly eroded... in a few years, it will be overwhelmed by new things like human growth hormone-releasing synthetics coming on the market," Beckett said.

He said parents had a responsibility to teach their children that sport was clean and wholesome, not a means of instant financial success.

"We must change the image of sports and the attitudes of parents," Beckett said. "But how do you do it? We have only dealt with the tip of the iceberg so far. No-one is dealing with the iceberg itself."

American League Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles found a way to keep up with the red-hot Toronto Blue Jays Thursday night: Win two while the Blue Jays were only winning one.

While the Blue Jays were beating Cleveland 12-4, the Orioles took a doubleheader from the Texas Rangers, 6-3 and 9-6, to make things tighter in the American League East race.

That moved the Orioles within 1½ games of the front-running Blue Jays in the sizzling East race.

Elsewhere, the Milwaukee Brewers beat the California Angels 7-1 and the New York Yankees edged the Seattle Mariners 6-4. The Orioles did it the hard way, beating Nolan Ryan in the first game and then whipping the Rangers in the second game in the doubleheader at Texas.

They continued their mastery over the Rangers' ace right-hander, beating him for the third time in three meetings this season and the ninth straight time overall.

"They've hijed my number," Ryan said. "It's aggravating. For some reason I haven't had good command of my pitches against them. They don't swing at bad pitches and in tight situations when I make good pitches, they foul them off. They've given me trouble all year and I don't know why."

The Rangers used a club-record 23 players, including six pitchers.

Blue Jays 12, Indians 4

George Bell hit a three-run double and Lloyd Moseby had three hits including a leadoff home run as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Cleveland Indians 12-4.

Toronto won its fourth straight and its ninth in the last 10, moving 15 games above .500 for the first time this year. The Blue Jays have led the American League East since Sept. 1 and are 66-39 since Cito Gaston replaced Jimmy Williams as manager in May.

Brewers 7, Angels 1

Tom Filer held California to four hits and an unearned run in eight innings and Glenn Braggs collected three hits, including a homer, as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Angels 7-1.

The Brewers simplified Filer's job by breaking out for the five runs before he had to make his first pitch. Milwaukee jumped Mike Witt, 8-13, for six hits in taking a 5-0 lead in the first inning. Filer, 6-3, struck out two and walked one before Tony Fossas pitched the ninth, completing a combined five-hitter.

Yankees 6, Mariners 4

Don Mattingly's two-run single keyed a six-run rally in the eighth inning as the New York Yankees came back to beat the Seattle Mariners 6-4 for their eighth straight victory.

The Mariners held a 3-0 lead before the Yankees rallied in the eighth for their winning runs. Mattingly's hit with two out broke a 3-3 tie and Steve Balboni followed with a sacrifice fly for the Yankees' sixth run.

Rich Gossage, 1-0, pitched one-third of an inning in the seventh to earn his first American League win since Oct. 1, 1983. Reliever Mike Schooler, 1-6, was the loser.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank Garry

ACROSS

1. Kitchen VIP
6. Put on
10. Pound down
14. Unusual
15. Pole
16. Seed covering
17. Tune
18. In union
19. Lie
20. Crooked
21. Trivial
22. Verily
23. Very cheerful
24. Dismal
25. Unit
26. Frighten
27. Significant
28. " "
29. Miserable
30. Light wood
31. Fabricate
32. Swell
33. Comp. pt.
34. Very rich man
35. Not secure
36. Use
37. Football specialist

DOWN

1. Camouflage
2. and boards
3. Island
4. Phrasing
5. Melting ponds
6. "My beloved"
7. "Coleridge"
8. "Miserable"

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

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PLAZA

SWIM TEAM

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



GUN LAW... two riot policemen armed with shotguns take aim at protesters during a clash at a township near Cape Town.

3 killed in S. African mine clash after strike

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Security men shot and killed three workers in a clash Friday night at a gold mine where there was a stayaway protest against South Africa's general election, the management said.

General Mining Union Corp Ltd (Gencor) said the security staff opened fire after being attacked by a crowd armed with knives and machetes. Eight others were wounded and three security men were hurt.

The security men tried to disperse the crowd peacefully, "but at last had to fire on the crowd to protect themselves," Gencor said.

Kinross, 100 kilometres east of Johannesburg, was one of the few South African gold mines where the workforce stayed away in support of a two-day nationwide protest by black workers against the exclusion of the country's black majority from Wednesday's election.

The anti-election protests led to clashes in the Cape Town area between demonstrators and

police Wednesday, during which anti-apartheid leaders say more than 20 black and coloured (mixed-race) people, including children, were killed and scores wounded by police.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and reformed church leader Allan Boesak have announced they will lead an illegal protest march on parliament next Wednesday. A five-day period of mourning for the Cape Town dead has been declared for next week.

Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok has given a figure of 15 dead in Cape Town and said 10 of them were killed in a faction fight. He has denied allegations of police brutality.

On Saturday a Cape town police lieutenant who publicly denounced a police riot squad as "wild dogs" for their actions during the protest, said his superiors were not taking his comments seriously although they had promised to investigate.

Defying orders not to talk to the press, Gregory Rockman told

reporters: "It seemed they did not realise the seriousness or significance of what I said."

The shooting at Kinross appeared to be part of continuing confrontation across the country over the election, in which the ruling National Party was returned to power with a reduced majority.

Jerry Majatadi, spokesman for the black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said the clash at Kinross resulted from harassment of union members by mine security staff, who had since Monday been attacking workers wearing union tee-shirts.

He said he understood mine security had killed four people including three NUM members, and seriously wounded 10. Gencor said police were investigating Friday night's incident and that work was continuing normally at the mine.

Gold mines, where migrant workers live in all-male hostels, are prone to violent clashes for various reasons including fights between rival tribal groups.

Bogota suffers setback

BOGOTA (AP) — A high-ranking drug trafficker imprisoned for the past month at the height of the drug crackdown has been released because authorities lacked an extradition request from the United States, police said.

Meanwhile, the army said it had arrested the pilot of one of the nation's top cocaine barons and contended that he had flown cocaine to the United States.

In Medellin, home of the powerful drug cartel by the same name, armed gangs wearing white hoods terrorised the embattled city, setting fire to nine government vehicles, including trucks and vans.

The gangs, suspected of working for the drug lords, hurled firebombs and fired shots in the air. No injuries were reported, and police said they arrested one man.

Radio Caracol reported that much of Medellin, a city of two million people 240 kilometres northwest of Bogota, was paralysed by a wave of "telephone terrorism" in which bomb threats were made to dozens of businesses, forcing many shops to close.

A car bomb exploded Friday night against a telephone company building in Medellin's affluent neighbourhood of La America, but no injuries were reported, police said. Radio reports, quoting witnesses, said earlier that at least four people were hurt.

Meanwhile, police said a key aide to narcotics kingpin Pablo Escobar was freed Thursday because there was no arrest warrant, legal paperwork or extradition request for him from the United States.

Police said Luis Fernando Galeano was held at an army base for a month after being arrested during a raid on a Medellin office building believed to house money-laundering operations.

Police said Galeano also was arrested in 1988 on charges of money laundering but had to be released because all the legal paperwork on him disappeared. It was not known why his latest arrest was not made public either in Colombia or the United States until after he was released.

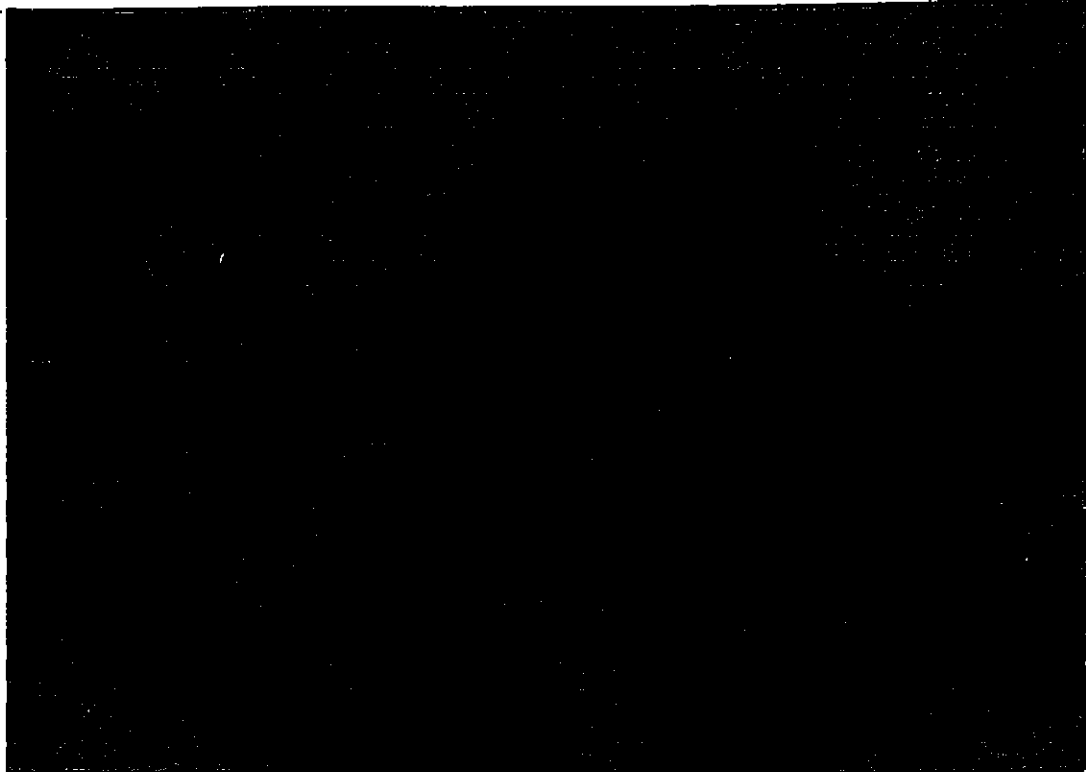
Escobar, who is at the top of a U.S. most-wanted list of reputed Colombian drug smugglers, is alleged to be the chief of a \$3-billion worldwide cocaine trafficking empire. The government of Colombia has offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

In Washington, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Frank Stults, said Galeano was not wanted in the United States and that there were no charges against him.

The government of President Virgilio Barco began a nationwide crackdown on cocaine barons Aug. 18 after gunmen killed Luis Carlos Galan, the leading presidential candidate and an outspoken critic of the traffickers.

Under emergency measures imposed as part of the crackdown, Barco revived Colombia's extradition treaty with the United States and authorities seized hundreds of millions of dollars in property, including lavish estates and planes, believed to be owned by drug barons.

Nine state-owned vehicles were firebombed in Medellin Friday. The fire department said assailants hurling firebombs set ablaze a municipal car, two waterworks trucks, an electric company truck and five more government-owned vehicles in broad daylight.



Officials examine the body of a man who was killed by Colombian security forces at Medellin airport in the violence that was sparked by the government's crackdown on drug lords.

Buses stoned, rail links attacked in Transcaucasia

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijanis have shot at and stoned buses carrying Armenians to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in a new surge of ethnic tension in Soviet Transcaucasia, according to Moscow Television.

There had also been three attempts in Armenia over the past few days to blow up bridges on the railway to Azerbaijan, it said in a report from the region Friday night.

At the same time, an official of the special administration set up by the Kremlin last year to administer the Karabakh region said Azerbaijanis grabbed three generals and briefly held them hostage last week.

One of the three was Colonel-General Yury Shatalin, commander of the Soviet Interior Ministry's domestic troops, who are being increasingly used in an effort to impose order in the country's restless outlying republics.

The television report, in the evening news programme Vremya, showed buses with bullet holes and all their windows smashed in the Karabakh capital of Stepanakert after passing through Azerbaijani-controlled

areas. "The situation has taken a turn for the worse," a police spokesman told the television reporter. He said there had been many women and children on the buses which had been attacked.

An Armenian resident of Stepanakert, contacted by telephone from Moscow, said members of his community there were forming "people's defence units" to protect themselves against possible Azerbaijani attack.

"The affair with Shatalin was a lesson for us. If his own soldiers could not protect him, then they are unlikely to be able to protect us," the Armenian, Avetis Grigoryan, said.

Nagorno-Karabakh, formerly part of Azerbaijan, is largely populated by Armenians. For almost two years it has been the focus of an increasingly bitter dispute between the two peoples and their neighbouring Soviet republics.

Tension has apparently been heightened over the past week by a partially successful strike called in Azerbaijan by a newly-founded Popular Front which is demanding full integration of the dis-

puted territory into the republic.

The front, still to be officially recognised, has mobilised hundreds of thousands of people in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, at rallies also calling for real democracy and freedom for the republic to run its own affairs.

The government newspaper Izvestia said in Moscow Friday night that the strike was affecting two major petrochemical plants as well as oil-equipment building and electronic factories and the railways.

The television report said the strike so far had cost 70 million roubles (\$112 million). Azerbaijan is an important centre of the Soviet oil industry.

The television report from Transcaucasia marked the first time this week the Vremya programme, watched by tens of millions across the country, had switched attention from the Baltic to the tense southern region.

For several consecutive nights the programme carried long reports clearly aimed at suggesting that the Communist Party leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were losing control to "bourgeois nationalists."

COLUMN

High priestess' guilty of prostitution

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ellen Tracy said she had sex with more than 2,000 men as high priestess of the Egyptian Church of the Most High Goddess. "In my religion only women act as priests, and they absorb the sins of men through sexual rites," Tracy, 46, declared. Her religious garb, she added, was a red-sequined strapless dress; black fishnet stockings and black high heel shoes. But prosecutors maintained Tracy's four-bedroom Spanish-style "church" was in fact a brothel because the men had to make donations to the church before they had sex. A municipal court jury agreed, finding her guilty Friday of two counts of prostitution. Her husband, Wilbur Tracy, 51, who told the court he had a revelation that his wife should have sex with thousands of men, was found guilty of running a house of prostitution. Tracy could be sentenced to up to one year in jail and her husband to six months imprisonment. "What I am guilty of is believing in a religion that is very advanced for its time," she said after the verdict.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	SEA.	MAX.	MIN.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	12	54	75	Clear
ATHENS	20	68	24	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	29	84	102	Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	32	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	47	45	19	Clear
CAIRO	21	70	80	Clear
CHICAGO	20	68	30	Rain
COPENHAGEN	14	57	18	Clear
FRANKFURT	10	50	25	Clear
GENEVA	10	46	24	Cloudy
HONG KONG	27	81	32	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	15	59	24	Cloudy
LONDON	14	57	15	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	60	26	Clear
MADRID	15	55	21	Cloudy
MECCA	29	84	102	Clear
MONTREAL	17	63	28	Cloudy
MOSCOW	08	43	16	Clear
NEW DELHI	26	78	37	Clear
NEW YORK	18	51	27	Clear
PARIS	14	57	27	Clear
ROME	17	63	25	Clear
SYDNEY	13	55	28	Clear
TOKYO	25	77	31	Clear
VIENNA	09	48	21	Clear

55 perish in Norwegian plane crash in North Sea

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A charter plane carrying Norwegian shipping officials to a ship's christening in West Germany crashed and disintegrated in the Skagerrak strait Friday, killing all 55 people aboard.

The twin-engine Convair turboprop, belonging to the Norwegian airline Partair, was en route from Oslo, Norway, to Hamburg, West Germany.

Rescue officials said 32 bodies were pulled from the sea. About 30 vessels, including a West German warship and fishing trawlers, were continuing to search the 55-degree (13 C) water.

"There are no survivors... the plane disintegrated," said Kurt Rasmussen, an official at the Danish sea rescue centre at Karup, on Denmark's Jutland Peninsula. "We just found the main wheel floating and the nose cone."

There were 50 passengers and a crew of five aboard, said Partair Managing Director Syver Leivstad, speaking to reporters in Oslo.

The passengers, including most of the top management and half the staff of the Wilhelmssen lines shipping company, where chosen by lottery for a trip that was

meant to be a reward, company officials said. All were Norwegian, the Norwegian NTB news agency said.

Officials declined to speculate on the cause of the crash. Rescuers said most of the bodies were found within a radius of a few hundred metres, which would appear to indicate that the plane did not explode in mid-air.

"There is no way of finding out the cause of the crash right now, because we haven't found the black box (flight recorder)," said Rasmussen.

The plane was 35 years old. Its engines were refitted about 20 years ago.

Partair chief pilot Per Erik Ingier said he brought the plane from Canada to Oslo one week ago where it had undergone a five-week comprehensive maintenance check, including an old-age inspection.

"I tested it and there were no problems," the pilot said. Leivstad said the plane had flown four or five trouble free flights since then.

He said the pilots of the ill-fated flight were among the airline's most experienced. The plane, which took off from

Oslo's Fornebu airport, was flying at an altitude of 7,000 metres, when air controllers at Copenhagen's Kastrup airport lost contact with it, Sweden's national news agency TT reported.

It went down 16 nautical miles (30 kilometres) north of Hirtshals, on Denmark's northern coast, according to the rescue centre at Karup. The crash site is 305 kilometres northwest of Copenhagen.

The bodies were being taken to Hirtshals.

The West German navy training ship "Deutschland" and the tender "Werra" picked up 14 of the bodies, according to the West German naval command in Glücksburg. Other ships and rescue helicopters were at the scene around nightfall.

The crash site is near heavily travelled shipping lanes leading from the North Sea into the Baltic.

It was the worst crash in Norwegian aviation history. Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland issued a condolence message and other party leaders suspended the campaign for Monday's general election.

Mystery of Turin shroud grips Paris conference

By Juliet Towhidi
Reuters

PARIS — The mystery of the Turin shroud refuses to die. Scientists are disputing tests that exposed the relic reputed to be Christ's burial cloth as a medieval fake.

Experts vowed at a two-day conference that ended Friday to probe deeper into the origins of the shroud. Some cast doubt on the accuracy of carbon-dating tests last October which concluded that it was a clever but baffling forgery dating from the 13th or 14th century.

They said future examination would dwell on solving the riddle of how the bloody image of a bearded crucified man was to be imprinted on the cloth, which has been kept locked away in a silver casket in Turin for more than 400 years.

Many of the 300 people at the conference cheered and clapped

when scientists or historian sketched out theories they hoped would prove the cloth dated back to the first century.

The sole supporter of the carbon-dating system, Dr. Michael Tite of the British Museum, was given a grilling over the way the experiments had been carried out.

"Most people here believe the cloth is 2,000 years old," said Tite. "But my belief in the results hasn't been shaken."

The carbon tests, conducted in three laboratories in the United States, Britain and Switzerland, showed the shroud dated from between 1260 and 1390 at least 1,200 years after the death of Jesus Christ.

But opponents say the mystery of the shroud, which has inspired more than 1,500 books and countless theories down the years, is unlikely to be solved on the strength of one set of labora-

tory tests. Some scientists said they believe samples of pollen and blood lifted from the 4.4 metre long linen cloth could prove it is much older than the 14th century.

American researchers have found an abundance of pollen samples on the cloth, indicating flowers had been laid on it, a traditional ritual before burial.

"Some scientists are disturbed by the idea that a relic of Christ could exist, and are absolutely determined to destroy its credibility," said Luigi Gonella, Italy's leading expert on the shroud.

Other experts contested the accuracy of the tests, which gauge the age of organic material by estimating the rate of deterioration of the radioactive carbon-14 isotope. They said the findings would have been distorted by the effects of damp

and heat through the centuries. According to the same scientists radiation emanating from Christ at the moment of resurrection distorted the carbon content.

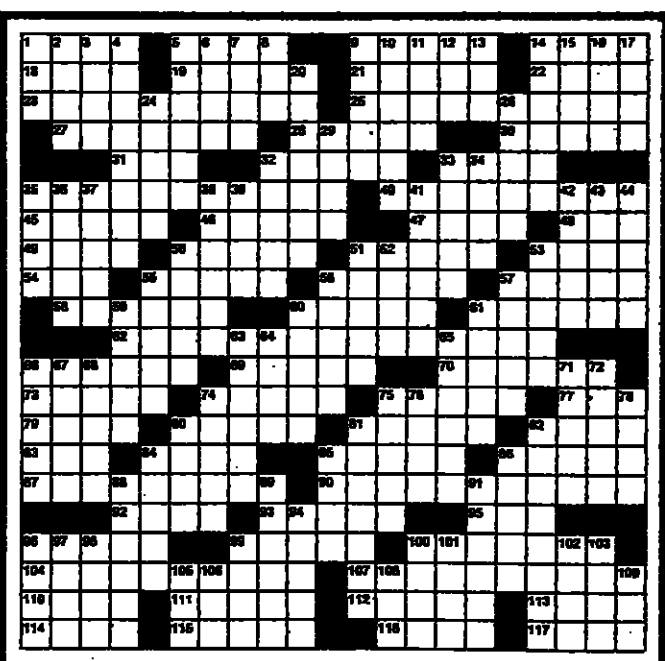
"There are more and more results where archaeologists and historians are at variance with carbon-dating. All this suggests physicists are rather arrogant in their assertions," said Ian Wilson, British historian and author of two books on the shroud.

Wilson has spent 30 years studying the shroud which he says shows the brownish-yellow image of a man, more like the scorch marks caused by a hot iron, rather than anything painted on afterwards.

"I just couldn't see it as the work of an artist," he said. "Someone is going to have to work very hard to show me how a human being produced that image."

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkesson



Last Week's Cryptograms

- Book borrower accomplished his old dream career when he became a new bookkeeper.
- True love is honorably assisted by practicality, luck and a heavy paycheck.
- Bright cook accidentally dropped tiny broken eggshells into eggplant dish.
- Is famed Maltese falcon on poor, endangered species listing?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. HEFTY ENIGMA ENIGM FIBS MITY UIMYRTZ.

NOWCII EMA CFPOMW YEGBTZY: UPBS IZ

ZTEOHPI

2. WANWMOIT FEML BLVZBELG TZGF MOIXZ

TLVXAGN FI FWZ MZLF IH WAB PAHBOZGF

PORE

3. PGW GRGTEEZ CATNPOWA OPPI UAY UNDA

CATER KP UNDOIZ UPFY OWNKOR

4. OLDSEAY UTDDYT EASDT LSIT DC UTT SL

CAB WAUTAWU ICYCLSOY BCCW.

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

